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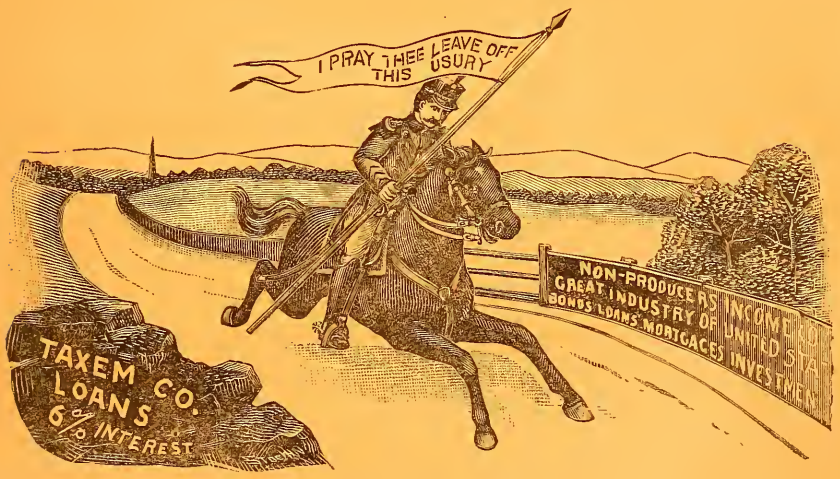
TRUTH ERRAND.

It strikes for the overthrow of systems of human oppression, and from its pages a fierce light of Truth shall beat in on the minds of men.



Bear a message o'er the Nation,
And let the People know
The cause of all this human degradation,—
The Panics, Poverty and Woe!

TRUTH ERRAND PUBLISHING CO.

C. R. NORTON, Agent, Providence, R. I.

TRUTH ERRAND

BY

J. B. NORTON.

THIS WORK WILL COVER A BROAD GROUND, BUT A FULL STATEMENT OF THE REMEDY IT WOULD APPLY FOR THE OVERTHROW OF USURY CANNOT BE GIVEN UNTIL A FURTHER ISSUANCE OF THE WORK SHALL HAVE PRESENTED MORE OF THE MEANS WHEREBY USURERS ARE MAKING THEIR GREAT ABSTRACTIONS FROM THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

HOW LONG SHALL AMERICAN PRODUCERS AND CONSUMERS PAY TRIBUTE TO USURERS?

"Ascertain the nature of the disease, then apply a remedy."

JUL 22 1896
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This work will be issued in serial form until the misery wrought upon mankind by "Interest" abstractions is fully shown.

PRESS OF CORNHILL PRINTING CO., BOSTON
1896

Entered according to act of Congress, in the year 1896, by J. B. Norton, in the office of the Librarian of Congress, Washington, D. C.

NOTICE.

Called Usury of old,
Named Interest to-day;
Downward it has rolled
With its thieving way.

"I Pray Thee, Let Us Leave Off This Usury." — *Nehemiah, Chap.* 5.

The word Usury used in this work means Interest.

The terms usurous taxation, class taxation, private taxation, refer to Interest assessments, directly or indirectly assessed.

The words Usurous or Usurers are applied to individuals, corporations, trusts, syndicates, or combinations of any kind that assess interest upon men.

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PREFACE.

LINCOLN'S RAG BABY.

The "means of production" would to-day be within the general reach of all men were it not for the fact that the "means of distribution" are so much under the control and taxation of the usurers that they can hamper and obstruct the movements of all men who are unable to quickly respond to their demand for tribute.

The usurous class receive their power for robbery from the favors paternally showered upon them by the very agents that a sovereign people have selected to administer the government.

The recognition of these plain truths are all that is necessary for the people to realize in their full importance, and then they will quickly see the folly of their submittance to such ill-conditions as have reigned in this country for nearly a quarter of a century.

By the strength of that sovereign power the people once employed for a stretch of years when danger confronted them, they should realize the mightiness of that power they can now employ. In the days of the rebellion the banks went to smash, but the legal tenders came forth and sustained the government and made the people prosperous.

In the early days of the civil war Secretary Chase, at the request of the bankers, besought Congress to pass the National Bank Act. This he afterwards bitterly regretted. He is reported as saying:

"My agency in procuring the passage of the National Bank Act was the greatest financial mistake of my life. It has built up a monopoly that affects every interest in the country. It should be repealed. But before this can be accomplished, the people will be arrayed on one side and the banks on the other in a contest such as we have never seen in this country." — *Salmon P. Chase.*

The following press despatch tells you how the national banks now stand, but not what they have taken from you in their third of a century of existence:

"The enormous resources of the national banks of the United States are shown in the last abstract of their condition, completed to-day, as of Feb. 28, 1896, and made public by Comptroller Eckles. The 3699 national banks had on Feb. 28, $1,951,344,781 in loans and discounts, $192,036,933 in stocks and securities, a lawful money reserve of $337,259,922, capital to the extent of $653,994.915, surplus fund of $247,178,188, undivided profits of $87,041,526, unpaid dividends of $1,233,515, individual deposits of $1,648,092,868 and bills payable of $20,104,667."

The national banks wish to expand their circulation to about seven hundred millions of dollars, and are trying to get the greenbacks and silver certificates retired for that purpose; and also want permission to receive an amount of circulating notes equal to their full investment in bonds, instead of the ninety per cent. now allowed.

On the first of October, 1894, the circulation of notes by these private corporations amounted to $202,546,710. As they draw a double interest taxation — one from the government on their investments in bonds and one from the notes a paternal government gives them to fleece the people with — it is worth the time to figure how much they can extract from the people in one hundred years if they compound their interest by repeated loaning.

In compound interest $100 at six per cent. grows to $340.00 in that time, which, multiplied by the $202,546,710, would give us an amount, in round numbers, of sixty-nine billions of dollars. If compounded at seven per cent. it would confiscate one hundred and seventy-six billions of dollars; and at nine per cent. nearly eleven hundred and twenty-three billions of dollars; and if they should succeed in raising their circulation to seven hundred millions, it would amount, at six per cent., to two hundred and thirty-eight billions; at seven per cent., to six hundred and seven billions; at eight per cent., to fifteen hundred and forty-two billions; and at nine per cent., to three thousand eight hundred and eighty billions of dollars.

Estimate the wealth of the country to-day; — think of what usury is doing and can do! — that the business men's daily deposits place ninety per cent. of that money at the

usurers' command continuously for new loans — new interest levies and compoundings; — and judge what the future will bring forth if you are not wise enough to stop the robber's hand!

Now look at the cost of your gold basis system. The last loan of one hundred millions of dollars in gold costs the Nation for interest charges alone one hundred and sixteen millions of dollars. Duplicate these loans several times and without adding one cent to increase your wealth you will have an interest bearing debt that will swell towards the billions.

No nation on earth could have stood up so long under such a rascally financial system as the American Republic has done; and it is not strange that wretchedness, poverty, crime, suicide, heart-failure and sudden deaths have marked the trail of such a system.

Is it not possible to have another kind of money that will shower blessings upon men instead of poverty and degradation? Take your greenbacks and establish them as the primary money of your country, *and make them so that they cannot be used for usury.* Money a nation must have, and there is no reason why the Nation should not decree two billions of dollars in greenbacks as its primary money. Then the people would have something on which to work, something to set their capital in motion. Establish such an amount of greenbacks under such conditions if it requires a constitutional amendment to do it! Such an act would represent statesmanship.

The usurers' friend says, "The greenbacks are an endless chain for drawing gold out of the treasury," yet no one wants to draw gold from the treasury except the usurers, and this friendly screech is but the echo of men who have always tried to discredit the greenbacks.

The usurers whine that the greenbacks are a debt due the people which must some day be paid! — but who, outside of the usurers, is clamoring for their redemption by the government? Individuals everywhere offer to redeem them with their services or commodities, and everyone is competing to redeem them the same way. That is all the greenback redemption the people want!

The greenbacks were Lincoln's "rag baby." Give them a new breath of life strong enough to make them eternal with the life of the American Republic. They sent mighty armies into the field in the country's darkest hours, and put guns in their hands and food in their mouths. They beat off the usurers then, and saved the Republic; and so now let them come forth as the primary money of the country under such empowerment that no usurous hand can ever use them as an instrument of human robbery and murder.

What made Lincoln name the greenbacks the rag baby? The bankers importuned him to use his influence to have the Legal Tender Act defeated. He grew tired of listening to them, and is credited with making the remark, "They all ought to be shot."

The bankers said that such money was worthless; that it was nothing but rag money; and that it would soon depreciate, and the poor widows and orphans would be robbed by them; but Lincoln said: "Wait until the rag baby is born, and then we will see what it can do!" When the armies were going into the field, and the workers at home were busily employed everywhere, Lincoln would proudly speak of the greenbacks and say: "That is what the rag baby can do!"

SPEECH OF JUDGE KELLY IN PHILADELPHIA, PA., ON LINCOLN'S RAG BABY.

"The patriots to whom I have referred had studied the Constitution of the United States. They knew that it imposed upon them the duty of saving the Nation. They knew that money is the sinew of war, and that it must be had. They knew that the Constitution authorized the coining of the public credit into money. They 'smote the rock of public credit,' and power and prosperity gushed forth. 'Smote the rock of public credit!' What does that mean? Why, they called into existence the 'rag baby!' They said to every man that would work: 'Here are wages for you; this rag baby will pay you.' They said to ship owners: 'Unfurl your rotting sails and

open your hatchways; we have brought you grain from the farm, carry it abroad to buy us clothing and arms; for our industries have been stricken, and we cannot provide clothing or arms for the army that is to sustain the Union.' The 'rag baby' showered greenbacks upon them, and the ships spread their sails, and carried rich cargoes to foreign lands, which were exchanged for clothing, arms and munitions of war. Industry was rife throughout the land. The farmers, who had been without an adequate or remunerative market for years, were getting good prices for their grain, were paying their debts to the local merchant, who in turn paid his to those of the great cities. A marvellous child was that 'rag baby.' While not yet a month old, its name, 'greenback,' not yet familiar to the people, it lighted the fires in every forge and furnace of the country; it hired ships, and bought others; it blockaded the whole southern coast; it rallied an army of 75,000 men, and we soon after heard ringing through the streets the shout of well paid and well clad soldiers, 'we're coming, Father Abraham, three hundred thousand more!' The 'rag baby' was welcomed by every commissary, quartermaster and paymaster. It furnished transportation; it met all demands, and the American people — at least those of the free States — with the great war on their hands, were prosperous as they had never been before, thanks to the marvellous power of the 'rag baby.' * * I name it not the 'rag baby;' I take the derisive term from the door of the Presidential mansion. I cannot imply a want of respect for the constitutional legal tender money of the country, the Treasury note, which did all that I have attributed to the 'rag baby.'"

HOW CAN PEOPLE SETTLE THEIR DEBTS?

"Why were not the active industries of the country able to pay their debts? Crops were as good as ever; there were the lowest of prices for all of the necessaries of life. It is said that there was "overproduction." The industry of the people was as active as ever before each of these panic epochs. The skill of the inventor was as great. In a country where there was overproduction there was suffer-

ing for bread and clothing. But in all of these crises money was scarce; that is, it was in the hands of people who were not actively engaged in any business. There was not enough to pay obligations; it was at a premium, or could not be had at all. The supplies of the country seemed to be in the wrong hands. The obligations of active industries seemed too large, and could not be met. The capitalists of the country held claims that there was not wealth to satisfy. They seemed to have the wealth, the money, and the claims which these alone could satisfy.

* * * * * * * * *

Looking at it from the standpoint of the producer, the discontinuance of the practice of interest taking would be an unmixed blessing. He would be able to use the wealth which its owners could not use and with it produce more wealth. At the same time he could save it for them from the inevitable ruin of nature and increase his own substance. He would be released from the hard conditions which at present so often make production unprofitable to all except the money lender. The burden on business which now sends the country into practical bankruptcy every decade, and makes a failure of ninety-five per cent. of all business undertakings would be removed. The toiler would not be obliged to hand over his substance in interest to those who toil not, and would be able to accumulate a surplus of his own, or to shorten his hours of toil."—*J. W. Bennett, in Arena.*

READ AND PONDER.

"Thus in many parts there are hundreds, sometimes thousands of persons who, finding little or no demand for their services, live in the most *exigeant* of all circumstances. Honest, skilled, industrious, in every way capable, they are yet devoid of employment, and conscious that when the last shilling is spent they are unable to say whence the next shall come. It is difficult to picture a more appalling spectacle in the midst of civilized society! An industrious, honest, capable citizen, living on the borders of starvation because he can find no demand for the skilled services he is able and ready to render! From

this cause wages are kept at a low figure, and no effort of the individual, or of a combination of individuals, will be able materially to raise them so long as this cause continues.

The supply of the precious metals in circulation is inadequate to the demand. Were gold obtainable as easily and as plentifully as the Manitoba farmer raises and reaps his crops, then this evil would soon be brought under control; but as things now are wealth is unequally distributed among the masses of the various countries they inhabit. For this ill there is no present effectual remedy — no one holds an Aladdin's lamp in his hands by which to discover an infinite supply of hidden treasure, and so the annual accretions of new bullion raised are scattered over the face of society as widely as circumstances will permit." — *J. R. Endeau, in Westminster Review.*

"BECAUSE THERE IS SO LITTLE GOLD!"

'Tis the usurer's taxation,
Gathered up from the Nation,
That sends Plenty away
And brings in Poverty day.

The spread of the usurer hand
Covers all the land;
And Want and Panics galore
Often come to the door.

With the usurer's cry of old —
"Because there is so little gold!"
Men are told to be content,
Working for Interest and Rent.

USURY.

THEN AND NOW, BEFORE AND HEREAFTER, UNTIL IT GETS BROKEN UP, ALWAYS THE SAME OLD SHE WOLF.

Extract from the report of a committee of the New York Legislature, in 1818:

"Of all aristocracies, none more completely enslave a people than that of money; and, in the opinion of your committee, no system was ever better devised so perfectly

to enslave a community as that of the present mode of conducting banking establishments. Like the siren of the fable, they entice to destroy. They hold the purse-strings of society, and by monopolizing the whole of the circulating medium of the country, they form a precarious standard, by which all property in the country — homes, lands, debts and credits, personal and real estate of all descriptions — are valued, thus rendering the whole community dependent upon them; proscribing every man who dares to expose their unlawful practices. If he happens to be out of their reach, so as to require no favors from them, his friends are made the victims; so no one dares complain. The committee, on taking a general view of our State, and comparing those parts where banks have been for some time established, with those that have none, are astonished at the alarming disparity. They see, in the one case, the desolation they have made in societies that were before prosperous and happy; the ruin they have brought on an immense number of the more wealthy farmers, and they and their families suddenly hurled from wealth and independence into the abyss of ruin and despair. If the facts stated in the foregoing be true (and your committee have no doubt they are), together with others equally reprehensible and to be dreaded, such as that their influence too frequently, nay, often already, begins to assume a species of dictation altogether alarming, and, unless some judicious remedy is provided by legislative wisdom, we shall soon witness attempts to control all selections to offices in our counties — nay, the elections to the very legislature. Senators and members of assembly will be indebted to the banks for their seat in this capitol; and thus the wise end of our civil institutions will be prostrated in the dust of corporations of their own raising."

NECROMANCY.

"Better than the lamp of Aladdin, better than the magician's wand, even better, far better than the philosopher's stone, is the economic fable, by whose potent alchemy the possessor of a little hoarded wealth can multiply his gold *ad infinitum* and levy contributions on the generations of

men to the end of time. It is a magic capable of transmission without the trouble or pains of study. By its action his posterity are made pensioners on all the generations of men. The capitalist's wealth is the fabled cup which, however often drained, is forever full; it is the purse which always contains a dollar. Verily the capitalist's secret is better than the power of kings.

But like all necromancy, when unveiled, it is but the jugglery of the faking charlatan. When the wealth which he has saved is gone, he mystifies others and takes their wealth to supply its place. It is by others' toil that the cup is kept full. He shuffles the empty vessel into the place of the brimming goblet which in turn he drains. His magician's wand is but the barbarous custom of tribute, which changes not but directs the stream of wealth from the hand of the toiling producer into the coffers of the money bag. It has obtained so long that men have forgotten to resist it. This all-powerful necromancy is interest taking." — *J. W. Bennett, in Arena.*

THE DREAM OF OUR FATHERS.

"Our fathers dreamed that they could establish on this western continent a nation dedicated to equality, liberty and human happiness. It was for this they labored; it was for this they fought; it was for this they endured untold sufferings. They saw, as in a vision, a mighty brotherhood — none poor, none greatly rich — and over it they lifted up a flag made of stars and lines of light — light for the wretched and unhappy; stars of hope for the downtrodden and the oppressed of all the world. A little more than one hundred years have passed away, and this is now a land of princes and paupers, of palaces and hovels, of soldiers and tramps, of great wealth and great misery. All the worst features of European — almost of Asiatic — degeneracy have already appeared among us. The clamor is already heard for a 'stronger government' and a larger army; huge fortifications, called armories, have sprung up in all our great cities; and the very children in our schools are being trained, in their callow youth, in the arts and instincts of murder. While the

Constitution of the United States declares that no State shall maintain a standing army, large bodies of troops are being organized, uniformed and paid by the several States. Our legislatures are butchers' shambles, where each piece of meat is hung up and ticketed with its price. Our politicians clearly understand that subserviency to the power of corruption is the one pathway to wealth and honor; and that he who defends the people must accept poverty and obscurity for his portion; our newspapers, instead of standing on the watch-towers and sending forth ringing bugle blasts to wake and warn the sleeping multitude, are at work, in darkness and night, digging out the foundation walls of civilization, so that the whole grand structure may crumble into ruin at the first shot from the cannon of the enemy."— *Hon. Ignatius Donnelly.*

Wherever the thieving usurer's hand doth go,
There doth ever run a tale of human woe;
For it steals the fruits of labor's hand,
And scatters desolation o'er a smiling land.

The Republican Manifesto issued March, 1896, by the Independent Canada party, says:

"We are to-day governed not in the interests of ourselves — the people of Canada — but in the interests of and by an oligarchy composed of corrupt and needy politicians and place hunters in Canada, and usurers and bondholders in England. We are, as you know only too well, eaten up by taxes, the greater part of which go to maintain and strengthen the position of these parasites. It is estimated that every year Canada has to send out of the country to England not less than $30,000,000 to pay the interest on government loans, mortgages, bonds, debentures, etc. This money comes out of the earnings of a hard-working and industrious people. We are in slavery to these politicians and usurers."

THE NINETY AND NINE.

"There are ninety and nine that live and die
In want and hunger and cold.
That one may revel in luxury
And be wrapped in its silken fold:
The ninety and nine in their hovels bare,
The one in a palace with riches rare,

They toil in the fields, the ninety and nine,
For the fruits of our mother earth;
They dig and delve in the dusty mine
And bring its treasures forth;
And the wealth released by their sturdy plows
To the coffers of one forever flows.
From the sweat of their brows the desert blooms,
And the forest before them falls;
Their labor has builded humble homes
And castles with lofty halls;
And the one owns castles, homes and lands,
And the ninety and nine have empty hands."

MEN OF MODERATE MEANS MUST FALL ALSO!

"Lest the millionaire should not listen, I would say to the men of the middle class of moderate means — farmers and others, though they may not now feel the oppression of the money power: Arouse to the danger that threatens soon to place you at the mercy of corporate and individual wealth, as the toiling laborers are to-day. I would say to the laborers, now robbed of the just reward of their labor, and even compelled in this land of plenty and abundance to suffer hunger and cold: Lay aside all manner of bickerings or disputes about minor affairs, and assert your independence by going to the polls, uninfluenced by money or those in authority, and cast a freeman's vote for representatives in Congress and the general assembly, who will be true to your interests and secure the enactment of such laws as will permit you to share in the wealth created by your toil, and to eat of the bread your hands have earned." —*Judge Lyman Trumbull.*

WHERE ENGLISH USURERS GATHER IT IN!

"The net returns accruing to this kingdom annually from dividends payable on *foreign* stocks, bonds, shares, and other investments made outside Great Britain are reckoned by scores of millions. Mr. J. H. Tritton, a leading member of the eminent banking firm of Messrs. Barclay, Bevan, Tritton & Co., Lombard street, thus speaks: 'As a banker, I ask you to stand at my side and look into the bill-cases of one or other of the large banks of the city of

London. What do we see? Bills drawn from all parts of the world, in respect of every conceivable commodity or product of nature available for the service of man, all represented in terms of British sterling, and all payable in London. Whence are the largest amounts drawn? From the great debtor countries of the world — India and the United States. This impresses upon us the fact that England is the great creditor country of the world." — *London Magazine.*

"WHERE IS THE FLAG OF ENGLAND?"

And the winds of the world made answer,
North, south, and east and west;
"Wherever there's wealth to covet,
Or land that can be possessed;
Wherever are savage races
To cozen, coerce, and scare,
Ye shall find the vaunted ensign;
For the English flag is there!

"Aye, it waves o'er the blazing hovels,
Whence African victims fly,
To be shot by explosive bullets,
Or to wretchedly starve and die!
And where the beach-comber harries
The isles of the Southern sea,
At the peak of his hellish vessel,
'Tis the English flag flies free.

"The Maori full oft hath cursed it
With his bitterest dying breath;
And the Arab has hissed his hatred
As he spits at its folds in death.
The hapless Fellah has feared it
On Tel-el Kebir's parched plain,
And the Zulu's blood has stained it
With a deep, indelible stain.

"It has floated o'er scenes of pillage,
It has flaunted o'er deeds of shame,
It has waved o'er the fell marauder,
As he ravished with sword and flame.
It has looked upon ruthless slaughter,
And massacres dire and grim;
It has heard the shrieks of the victims
Drown even the Jingo hymn.

"Where is the Flag of England?
Seek the land where the natives rot;
Where decay and assured extinction
Must soon be the people's lot.
Go! search for the once-glad islands,
Where diseases and death are rife,
And the greed of a callous commerce
Now battens on human life!

"Where is the Flag of England?
Go! sail where rich galleons come
With shoddy and 'loaded' cottons,
And beer, and Bibles, and rum;
Go, too, where brute force has triumphed,
And hypocrisy makes its lair,
And your question will find its answer,
For the Flag of England is there!"
— *London Truth.*

Bankers' conventions are very much in evidence these days. They resolve upon maintaining the "gold standard." They request their members to use all their "influence" to have their customers see that delegates to the conventions of both political parties declare in favor of gold. They open with prayer. Thus they pray: —

"To enslave and hold
This mighty nation
In toil and degradation,
Give, O give us gold!

and help us, O Lord! to get rid of the greenbacks, and get in our doubly usurous private corporation National Bank Notes."

TRUTH ERRAND.

CHAPTER I.

THE GRAND ONWARD MOVEMENT.

"Onward! Onward! Onward ever,
Human progress none may stay.
All who make the vain endeavor
Shall like chaff be swept away!"

We quote the above from a short poem that, as with the breath of life, sings the song of the human march.

Men are thinking—seriously thinking!

Unconfined by the limitations that hemmed in all movements of the forefathers, the trend of human thought, unobstructed by the ignorance of old, seeks the light of reason instead of the flight to caves of darkness.

The mountainous bulks of barriers and dangers, through which no pass was ever to be made by man, are now assailed by the forces of a widened and widening intelligence, and the frowning peaks and insurmountable shapes of the mist clouds of custom and human avarice, are constantly surren-

dering a part of that formation that long courses of time hath given them.

And in the clearing away of the misconceptions of the past, this throwing down of its terrors and its false gods, a revolution is started that in its end in all its beneficial bearings upon the affairs and conditions of mankind, will be the greatest and grandest movement for the establishment of human rights, the world has ever witnessed.

The unequal distribution of the things of earth among mankind, the division of men into classes which naturally follows in which some have plenty, a few more than millions, while the majority of mankind who labor and create the wealth of the world are firmly held in the bondage of a slavery and poverty that is illy in keeping with the flowing plenteousness of earth, is certainly not a condition created by the Benevolent Almighty God.

It is but an artificial creation made and enforced by man against his fellow man.

From the days of savagery it has come down when the most brutal and powerful of the tribes dominated the weaker members and threw their burdens upon them to bear, and as civilization advanced and the intercourses of men became marked by a larger degree of politeness and refinement the method, but not the severity of the enslavement, has changed.

But savagism survives to-day in all the habits and customs of the people, and the system of human slavery of old has only been changed for that of another order which contemptuously throws down the responsibility self-interest once imposed upon the master of feeding and taking care of his slaves sufficiently to prevent their over-crowding to the point of exhaustion.

The Wage System, succeeding the Chattel Slave System, was a marked gain for humanity, but the Wage System of to-day is the victim of other systems that are founded on a right of robbery which so encompass it, tax it, embarrass and pauperize it, as to make many people honestly believe that the Wage System is but little better, if not worse, than the Chattel Slave System.

And it is against those spoliation systems of robbery that the friends of humanity must rally and unite their forces, with a determination never to cease their warfare until their rebellion becomes established as the revolution which tears away for all time every shred of legislation that records a clause or word that will sanctify or permit the brigand's crime.

CHAPTER II.

DECEPTIVE APPEARANCES.

The traveler who is a stranger passing through the different sections of the country will behold what he considers indications of great prosperity among the people.

He will find well tilled farms and men working upon them to the utmost limit of their strength. He will find populous cities with finely paved and side-walked streets, with residential or business structures lining their edges On the business thoroughfares, through large plate windows of the different emporiums, he beholds goods of every description displayed in attractive manner for sale, and as he jostles along through the fairly well dressed crowds flowing in and out from the different marts of trade, he is naturally led to believe that prosperity reigns everywhere.

He sees life in its most glittering and artificial form — mahoganized and gilded saloons, churches with stained windows and towering steeples, theatres, dance halls, halls for Christian and temperance work, libraries, hospitals, newspaper offices with bulletined walls, electric cars, steam

cars, telephone, telegraph and fire alarm wires stringing in every direction; but oh! behind all these agencies capable of promoting men's welfare what suffering and misery are concealed!

Man's injustice to man is not told in the outward seeming, for it hides in its glittering magnificence the sufferings and wrongs of the people through soulless imposition, as the outer walls of a hospital hide from those that pass the mangled human forms and suffering within.

The land is full of blasted hopes, commercial wrecks, impoverished men, untimely deaths, harassing tales of human woe, suffering, degradation and crime, and all for no other reason than the foolish one, that the human race has become so used to paying usurers' tribute, that submission has raised the walls of habit so high and strong among men as almost to bid defiance to Truth to break through, or let its light over-peer and let intelligent reason show the folly that longer permits the usurous leech a place in civilization.

Think, O traveler! as you pass along of that conservatism which sustains systems of impositions on humanity, that had their birth in the days of a semi-civilization, as deified acts of Justice—of that savage hogism which still makes man, for the sake of gain or pleasure, rob to poverty his fellowmen—of that arrogance which makes the sucessful hog entertain the idea that

he is better than the man whose opportunities may have been less or whose conscience may be greater—of that fakeism which makes the shallow-brained ape conditions of prosperity they do not possess—of that Christianity that looks with light concern upon the existing system where the favorably circumstanced are constantly assessing and collecting taxation upon all whose conditions are less favored. Man raising his hand to the throat of his fellow for the purposes of plunder and proclaiming as social law and social honor the right of the victim to sally forth and recoup his losses by the plundering of others if he can, or failing, to be judged by society as of no account, or burdensome, or worthless.

Think! O think of these things, traveler! as you look over the farms of the country, the streets of the city and towns. Go to the Record Offices and look at the instruments of extortion on file, the executions for disposition ready to go into the hands of the sheriff, and the millions that have been issued and carried into effect, and learn whether the workers, the real builders of the country, have reaped their reward, and, as you behold the usurer seated in the serene satisfaction of control, judge whether such a civilization and such a Christianity hath a God.

And think of the Roman Empire, and read from history's page, that while her temples increased

and her palaces multiplied and shone with growing splendor and flash of gold and sheen, the small landed proprietors were robbed by her lazy aristocracy and compelled to throw up their hands; how they were driven to the cities to be fed like dogs in the streets, with hireling human curs all around them in the shape of spies and soldiers under orders to take their lives if they should make disturbance.

Once it was considered a great honor to be able to make the boast, "I am a citizen of Rome!" but the ravages of the Aristocracy made the Roman citizen a Roman dog, running city streets in quest of a bone.

History is said to repeat itself, and with the tale of the declining Roman Empire will be told the fall of the American Republic if its citizens are not wise enough and courageous enough to rise and demand that their government learn the fact that they are sovereign in this Nation.

But O the signs are ominous! the great movement for the degradation of the American citizen has been long plotted and is working. The Press and the politicians of the country swim with the usurous tide. The Church has forgotten God, except as it names Him for revenue. Tramp citizens are on all our highways and beggar citizens in all our city streets. Twenty-five years of gigantic plundering have made the people used to the

robber's hand. But, citizens, despair not! The sovereign still lives in yourself, and "God still reigns." And your education will not always overcome your intelligence, and when that day's dawn doth brightly shine you will never be slaves of usurers. Let us stop and think awhile. What provisions did God make for men on earth?

CHAPTER III.

WHAT GOD GAVE TO ALL MEN ON EARTH.

BEFORE making an inquiry into the reasons why the great numbers of humanity are not receiving what they ought, it is well to pause and consider whether God made such provisions for men's needs upon earth as to ensure them a comfortable supply of those things necessary for the maintenance of life.

That God did intend the earth should afford to man greater benefits than those bestowed to other living things thereon, we have ample evidence in the greater means He has provided for man's support.

He has given to man a superiority of intelligence that establishes and maintains man as the ruling Lord of Earth, and has supplemented man's mental force by making the birds of the air, the fish

of the sea and the animals of the field assist him in sustaining life, by furnishing food and material for clothing, and by making them become aids in distributing the seeds of vegetation over the earth, bear burdens, and in different ways aid man in subjugating the earth to his liking.

He has made the earth bring forth a richness of things for man's sustenance, and such provisions, if man chooses to cultivate them, for such abundance of necessary supplies that, under ordinary natural conditions, the human family, with a moderate outlay of exertion, need never know what want or poverty means.

Nor has there been any fixture of a line to mark the sharp limit of man's opportunities, for God gave in the human brain such a wonderful organism that it has gradually enlarged the powers of man, until he has become able to employ the air, and the water, the minerals and metals of earth, in overcoming resistance, and to construct such mighty engines for the harnessing of the forces of nature as to multiply a thousand-fold the power for production.

With all these benefits open in a great measure, in a larger or smaller degree to all, why is it that in the midst of this power for, and actual accomplishment of, production so many toilers have struggles of the most painful kind to keep up a miserable existence, so many driven to commit

crimes, so many forced to beg in order to get anything to eat, so many driven from off the earth before their time for departure has rightfully come, so many losing all hope, all pride, all ambition, while a few roll in a wealth of gatherings they can never use honestly?

We hear the hypocritical wail. the kicks, curses and rebuffs given to the poverty stricken by the very people who thrive in idleness upon the incomes derived from schemes which have made those same human wrecks they hate to meet.

Why, we repeat, does all this misery and poverty exist for the many, while the few are so very rich? Why are these criminals and beggars on our street? Why all this loss of hope, pride and ambition among men? Why does the despoiler look down with disgust upon his victim?

It is the purpose of this book to give the answer to these inquirers, to locate and mark the crime that is responsible for the present condition of humanity so plainly that all men may have the opportunity of knowing why such ill conditions obtain among men.

With no apology to any one, it strikes for the overthrow of systems of human robbery, and from its pages a fierce light of truth shall beat in on the minds of men. Education extends intelligence among men, but education carried in the wrong direction will transform a nationof free men into

a nation of slaves, for education can disarm and overpower intelligence.

No intelligent person to-day doubts for a moment the fact that the earth is capable of sustaining all men. Malthus, who held it was necessary for wars and pestilence to thin out the ranks of men so that population should never exceed the earth's power for sustaining men, is no longer an authority quoted in respectable quarters but doctrines a thousand times more destructive to human life than the welcoming of wars and pestilences have been educated into our people until the moral perceptions of large numbers have become badly blunted.

CHAPTER IV.

INABILITY OF MEN TO REALIZE THE FULLNESS OF GOD'S GIFTS.

In the vastness of the Universe the human mind under its best conditions is but a very weak affair. So it has been in the past, so it is to-day. But in ignorant ages, when the mind was less trained to thought, effects following unseen causes became established in many instances as first great principles.

Superstition filled the minds of men. Rocks,

trees, beasts, birds, became gods, or the abodes in which the spirits of the gods abided. Men were made controllable for the enslavers by the holding up of visionary duties which they were told must be fulfilled or dire disaster would follow while in other cases the superior force of a greater brutality made argument a thing considered unnecessary.

Brutality and cunning has ever enabled those men that have those characteristics in a large degree to triumph over and enslave those who possess them in a less degree. Civilization ought to be able to hold in check the brutal and cunning from committing wrongs against their brother men, but civilization has not yet torn out the entwinements of the semi-civilization it seeks by labored process to get rid of.

The world moves slowly in advancement. Its teachers are so wedded to their idol gods that their folly is never considered until those idols rot and drop in pieces that can never be reunited.

We look back upon the ignorance and impositions of the past, but we seem incapable of realizing that very much of our education is based upon ignorance of actual facts and impositions upon men.

In our own day, and under our own observation, we have seen vast assemblages of men shouting themselves hoarse for their Kings and Queens. Not that those Kings and Queens have ever done

anything for them of a beneficial nature, for they have never done anything more for them than to tax them, and flatter them on as "loyal soldiers" and "loyal sailors," and expose them to the dangers of mutilation or death in settling quarrels those Kings and Queens have made.

Nor have we got to go to other nations or look back to other times to find a reason why the unequal condition of men exists, for in our own country, the boasted land of the free, where more than forty-five of the sixty-five million of people in the Nation can read and write, we have beheld hundreds of thousands of men, in the excitement of fury, in election campaigns, shouting themselves hoarse for a lot of tricky or wooden-headed candidates, because the politicians with brass bands and yelling voices have worked them to a fever heat.

The American voting king has for many years been a good deal like the Royal King's subjects, for a majority of both are king cattle that are ever ready to feed upon the weed of a subterfuge.

The following lines express the motives and ambition displayed by the voters of both the Republican and Democratic parties in our country:

"When fiction rises pleasing to the eye
Men will believe because they love the lie,
But Truth herself, if clouded with a frown,
Must have some solemn proofs to pass her down."

When history's pages are truly written for the past quarter of a century, he who runs shall read of the people's inability to realize and protect their rights, and how, through the pleasant subterfuges thrown to them by the subtle and cunning, their rights were unwittingly surrendered to very narrow and harrowing limitations.

CHAPTER V.

WHY THE AMERICAN CONSTITUTION FAILS TO PROTECT THE PEOPLE.

Our Republic is supposed to be the best example of free government existing on earth, yet it is absolutely nothing else than a limited Democracy, affording no more real liberty to the people in general than that enjoyed by those of the limited Monarchy of Great Britain.

In 1776 the Philadelphia Bell rang out, "proclaiming Liberty unto all the Land and unto all the inhabitants thereof." This represented at that time the revolt against King George and the despotism of his government, which sought to impose taxation of a harassing nature upon the American Colonies, while at the same time denying them representation.

That taxation was direct enough to be visible and consequently very objectionable to our forefathers, who first resolved to get rid of it by obstructing its collection and afterwards made up their minds the only way they could do it was to get rid of King George and his government altogether.

This they succeeded in doing after a long and bitter struggle, and they then united in the formation of a government, laying its foundations upon such principles and organizing its powers in such form as to them seemed most likely to effect their safety and happiness.

At that time the industrial organism of the country was but an infant affair compared to the giant existence of to-day, and private taxation was not interwoven in and around everything, as it became later on, in an ever increasing degree.

And our forefathers, entering upon the work of an experiment of government that seemed fraught with dangers in every direction, passionately divided among themselves as to the best method to pursue, after making such departures as they thought necessary, and rejecting what they considered antagonistic, reëstablished the institutions of the limited Monarchy they had separated from and gave us the limited Democracy known as the United States of America.

And it is because our Democracy is a limited

one, nursing slave institutions like those of the monarchies of the Old World, that the American Republic has failed to secure to the people the rights they ought to enjoy.

Once already has our Nation waded knee-deep in fratricidal blood to wipe out the institution of Chattel Slavery, and to wipe out other institutions of human slavery its sons may again be compelled to engage in a life and death grapple, unless for the miserable statescraft of the present day, we can substitute a broad statesmanship sufficiently great to give us a Democracy that shall contain no paternal institutions for giving private individuals and their combinations in clubs opportunities for inflicting their needless and uncompensating taxation upon the people.

CHAPTER VI.

WHY POWERFUL RELIGIONS FAIL TO ESTABLISH MEN'S RIGHTS.

Mankind must not look to any of the Religions of the day for the removal of the wrongs under which they suffer.

Some of these religions have existed almost co-incidentally with man's enslavement.

Through the teachings of many of them are virtues upheld, which if impressed to the fullness of their measure upon man, would long ago have overthrown the governments of the merciless brigands who rule the world with their laws of despotism.

Justice, Truth, Mercy, Charity, and hosts of other precepts have been held up by scores of religions for man to practice.

Christianity has assembled together the great virtues of them all, and being the religion of the greatest number of intelligent people has had the greatest opportunity to impress these virtues on the world over that of every other religion.

Yet Christianity, like its predecessors and contemporaries, has grievously failed in bringing about just conditions among men.

Its priests are as weak in the denunciation of those wrongs as those of other religions are, and have been, and to keep its moral responsibilities limited to those conditions that arouse the smallest antagonism is, and has been, the aim of them all in modern times.

But to-day, the Christian Church confronts a larger intelligence among men, and they protest against the Church lethargy in regard to the welfare of mankind, and insist that it shall cease to act as a police power in upholding institutions of wrong, whose natural workings are but the impoverishment and degradation of humanity.

In the early days of the Christian Church Jesus said: "Render unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's, and unto God the things that are God's"; so now mankind, in these days of intelligent power for discerning right from wrong, say to the Christian Church: Go fulfill thy duty and carry out that command, and restore to men those things God appointed for men's free use and benefit.

With an organization that is complete, with a sway world-wide, the conditions that now obtain could never exist, except by the sanction of its silence, which is made to justify the interpretation of its approval.

The singing of hymns to God, the ministration to the unfortunate sick, and the burial of the friendless dead, are all worthy things for the Christian Church to do, but it has responsibilities that run up to and beyond these that call for the using of its powers for the removal of the causes, which are the flowering plants, that bring forth the plagues of human poverty and degradation; and which only remain existant through a contravention of the will of the Almighty God by the worldliness of the Christian Church, and the guilty shirking of duties it ought to perform.

Will the Christian Church meet its responsibilities and move for the relieving of humanity from the wrongs of a needless and terrible cross? Or shall the friends of a larger, more earnest

and intelligent Christianity have fall on their hearkening ears that doleful, miserable answer Cain gave as to the whereabouts of Abel: "Am I my brother's keeper?"

But let mankind wait not for any religion to cut the way for man's regaining these God-given rights upon the face of this green earth, but without apology to any creed, or to any set of men, let them take possession of what God has created for them.

CHAPTER VII.

WHY HONEST REFORMERS BLUNDER AND FAIL TO LEAD.

Theorists and dreamers having the welfare of humanity at heart have spun out their expositions for the betterment of the conditions of men, from the mightiest wrongs to the lightest injuries.

They touch the great extremes and cover all ground between the annihilation of the State, on the one hand, by the installation of the individual in undisputable supremacy, and on the other hand they establish the State in such preëminence and in such tyrannical form as to thoroughly ignore the individual for the purpose of obtaining the utmost limit in human economy.

Having started out with the consciousness that

something is wrong in the dealings of men, these reformers, whether as Anarchists, Communists, Single Taxers, Nationalists, Socialists, or under whatever title they enunciate their principles, have kept on thinking and theorizing, ever going further and further, dissecting every stringer that unites condition with condition, until they have reached to their own satisfaction a human state so equitable that there is nothing left for man to hope for on earth further in that direction.

But they betray their own impracticability in their failure to take into account the immense potentiality of resistance involved in the extension of their line of attack, beyond the overthrowing of the great wrongs that oppress humanity, in seeking to make humanity become an aggressor against itself, by destroying all its habits of lesser concern, for the purpose of installing new and untried methods in the government of life which may be no better, and possibly worse, than those of to-day.

Establish to-morrow the conditions they lay down as necessary in full throughout the civilized world and we would find them meeting with ignominious failure, for the reason that they need for their practical working the creation of a new race, wholly different from that which exists to-day, or what their descendants, for generations afar, can ever hope to be.

Time, indeed, may bring forth that universal fairness of character which may establish an indisputable justice from the weakest to the smallest detail in all controllable actions of human concern, or, in its evolutions, that universal plenteousness and variety of things which sustain the body and feed the mind, as to extinguish the fires of human ambition.

But such an age is not upon us, and humanity must unify its forces against the power of its oppressors and battle down their institutions of oppression instead of arraying itself against itself.

CHAPTER VIII.

MACHINERY: A WRONGFUL LOCATION OF OPPRESSIVE POWER.

A Great many reformers cry against machinery as something that injuriously works against humanity, and mournfully foretell the day when the greater part of humanity will be thrown out of employment on account of its ability to supply the wants of the world.

But their blindness lies in their inability to locate the causes of human oppression and to discern the fact that machinery is advancing mankind in comfort, intelligence and independence.

A leading socialist writer instances the sewing machine to support his statement that the toilers have not been benefited by machinery.

As to the overworked and underpaid sewing girl this is true ; but it is within the limitation of a practical remedial cause, and beyond that it is entirely incorrect; and so it is within the lines of easily remedial causes that all the great grievances lie that now exist in the line of oppression to human toilers.

The engine driver is really a slave while doing duty upon his locomotive ; but his is a responsibility that society cannot throw down, unless it is willing to relinquish the benefit of his onward, rushing train, though that benefit be not what it ought to receive, or what it will receive when it enforces its rights, yet even now more beneficial than anything that preceded it in that direction.

So the needle-woman of the machine, though, personally unfairly used, is supplying a greater field of wants than her sister with the simple needle ever did. More clothing is being supplied, and a greater number of people are finding employment in preparing the material and shaping the goods she unites. The place of activity is changed from the house to the factory, and greater numbers of people are receiving more articles of comfort, protection, and adornment than ever could be delivered under the old dispensation.

The avocation of the old woman who patched stockings on the sidewalks of Paris cannot be followed, for the reason that the machine sends forth the new product in many grades cheaper than the old can be cleaned and repaired, asserting its benefits to mankind by establishing an economy in the waste that throws the worn article to the junk man for disposal and reproduction in other lines of utility.

Wherever machinery has been most extensively used a larger intelligence has been installed, although the operatives have not, in all cases, received the benefit of the enlarged education it gives society opportunities to obtain, for the reason that society is yet full of hoggish slaves who love the chance and fraud of the vile systems which allow them to work their wits in the plundering of men.

But the world moves onward very rapidly in these days, and the intensification of greed and the extension of the reachings of those institutions which work, to the utmost limit, things of wrong, invites the destruction that intelligent, maddened humanity decides shall be their doom.

When Eli Whitney invented the cotton-gin and made the separation of the seeds from the cotton an easy matter of accomplishment he created a new condition which made the conversion of cotton into wearing apparel a profitable business.

But they tell us it was this invention that tightened the cords and increased the pain of Negro slavery in the South.

And yet the whole world gained through it all. Millions gained warmth and protection to their bodies, while hundreds of thousands gained a means of supporting life through the channels it opened for labor, and through the following of its beneficial streams, in conjunction with those that preceded them, was born and craddled that spirit of humanity, that at last overthrew the institution of Negro slavery.

So, wherever we turn to investigate the facts connected with the rise and improvement of machinery, we there find the register of the advance of humanity, and to very little else than the opportunities it has made and the improvements it has established do men owe that superiority of intellect that is fast giving them the courage and resolution to proceed to tear down all class institutions of human oppression without any reference to their sacredness of age as recorded upon the tombstones of the past.

CHAPTER IX.

THE ABSTRACTION THAT CREATES HUMAN POVERTY.

"I want my Interest!
And I will cut the flesh
From his breast!" — Shylock.

"Know you then the Truth!
The Truth will make you great, —
Shall make you Free!"

With unlimited resources, with powers of production that can always be kept greater than the necessities of man, why is there need of so much enforced crowding down of men to misery, poverty and degradation?

Write this question on every available spot that the eye of man can reach until, as from his soul, the memory of men shall bring it forth at the instance of every robbery committed through the instrumentality of the legislative crimes that are written down as "Law."

This centralization of thought upon the burning wrongs of the day will become the vivifying warmth that will cause intelligent humanity to energize a resistance that will grind to dust the rocks of error on which these crimes are founded.

The great masses of the people are robbed in all directions by institutions for class aggrandizement that have no right to any place in any decent state of civilization.

These institutions are of private ownership, and are hostile to every interest of our citizens; but they enforce such powers of government as to make the sovereign State supply all the machinery, all the power required for its running, and all the tenders for its operation.

These individuals, compelling the government to allow them to take possession of, and operate one of the government's greatest prerogatives, also demand that the government grant them paternal protection, by courts and military power, while they, in arduous toil, by clerky hands, write up their impositions of impoverishing taxation upon the people of the Nation, in proportions thousands of times greater than any sovereign State itself would dare to assess.

Usury condemned of old, condemned by the Bible, damnable under any and all circumstances, makes its dark and withering presence felt throughout all the land.

The great productive power of machinery, developed most largely during the past three-quarters of the present century, has presented a rich field for the usury taxers, and multiplied almost endlessly their power under the legislation

which they have successfully directed, to wind in and about the pursuits of man the chains of their despotism, and, as the natural results of their crimes, human misery and human degradation abound in all directions.

People will some day learn the cost to them of supporting some of the folly gods of their forefathers, who, on account of their weakness, were obliged to do many things which people of to-day, if they unite and do not let their education destroy their intelligence, need not be obliged to do.

The Interest-god they were obliged to carry sacrifice to; and we of to-day are doing just as they did, and in a larger degree with our enlarged opportunities, because the usurer says so; but this old god of our reverence is something that should now be kicked out, with its thieving old fakir priests, into those dumping grounds where old superstitions and immoral ideas are fast going to swell the rubbish heap.

In some of the old countries, where they find a man who is always looking for the best end of everything, the people contemptuously speak of him as having big eyes, and wherever you find a usurer there you will find the man whose big eyes let nothing escape him that his taxation can safely reach.

In our country the levies of the usurers' taxation are laid upon the movements and upon all things

men use. We can turn no way but what we will find the usurers' taxation staring us in the face. The house man constructs or rents for a habitation, the transportation method he employs, all implements he uses in his callings, on the land he tills and the crop it brings forth, on all his exchanges, in the swelling of the government levies, and in the simplest reach of the people in all activities, you will find those impenetrations that the greedy usurers, as with the cut of a worm, have made as their abstractions.

If there was any compensation in the robber taxation the usurer inflicts upon the people by their putting something into the world to compensate for the poverty they cause to mankind, there might be some excuse for permitting them thus to prey upon mankind with their tricks and devices.

But there is none whatever, for their taxation is nothing but a pure abstraction, levies of the idle upon the consumers and producers of a nation that have no foundation for existence outside of that miserable principle of low state-craft, which thinks it a good thing to farm out taxing powers to those who have much on account of their having much.

Usury is the dark curse that has come down to us from the days of a semi-civilization, and as a withering and destroying and continuing plague

it bothers agriculture, commerce, manufacture and all producing and consuming humanity in general.

Taxing, interfering with and forever disturbing the nation, impoverishing millions of individuals to the verge of cruel want and despondency by its red-handed stealings from the land, the houses, the exchanges and intermingling of the people, without adding a particle of wealth to the nation, it centralizes, in painful processes, the wealth of the many into the hands of a small usurous class, whose accommodations and extortions can be dispensed with by the government doing its duty and exercising its full functions for the benefit of the people.

To-day we have the vast amount of interest taxation still further increased in all the dealings of men by the reprisal system, which makes those who meet the first levy of interest taxation resort to a profitable recovery upon the first party with whom they make an exchange or loan a credit, who, in turn, proceeds to make another profitable reprisal, as he passes it along to others, who will also repeat and extend the previous taxation.

And let Labor mark the fact that the *real producers and consumers are made the dumping ground for all this taxation* not carried by the flowing streams of individual repudiation and commercial wrecks to outlawry, or to the bankruptcy courts

that adjust, for the benefit of whom it may concern, such leavings as may result after the secured usurers and expenses have been provided for.

And let Labor also carefully mark the fact, that with nothing but Labor to sell, it has no power to use the reprisal system to throw off on some one else the force of the impact of interest and reprisal taxation made upon itself, and that it must submit to small reward for its services.

Labor should understandingly realize the fact that the great drainage which interest makes upon men in all directions predisposes and even oftentimes compels men, in self defence, when employing labor to treat it as a commodity to be purchased as cheaply as possible, without any regard to the moral aspect of the bargain.

And Labor should thoroughly understand that not only is interest taxation one of the most powerful factors for keeping the rewards of labor down, but that it also directly defrauds labor by destroying in a great measure such reward as Labor succeeds in obtaining, through the compelling of the laborer to settle, without any chance of making any recoupment, the heavy interest taxation that is interwoven in everything he uses to maintain himself, whether it is rent, groceries, clothes, or whatever he buys.

All of these things the laborer will understand if he carefully reads this book, and also many

other things which to him may have seemed surrounded with unfathomable mystery, for the usurers have studied to blind men that their systems of robbery might go on, even going to the pains of making our education a part of their scheme.

And not only they who work directly for hire, but men of every calling — farmers, traders, manufacturers, merchants and every honorable man, be he who or what he may that reads these pages, will find an opportunity, if he has never had one before, to learn a little of the mighty wrongs imposed upon millions of people, by the vile systems of usurous taxation, and can use his intelligent reasoning power to decide if it is not about time this method of impoverishing men should stop, in our country at least.

And not only they, but our very teachers whose spirit may be outside of the usurer's school, if they will ponder over the mighty facts recorded on these pages of the causes of human oppression, may awaken to a sense of shame for their guilt in allowing those things to pass on unchallenged.

CHAPTER X.

THE INTEREST AND REPRISAL COMBINATION.

We have spoken of reprisal taxation, and we will now proceed to show something of its power, and give an idea of the robberies committed by both Interest and Reprisal in the every day commingling of producers and consumers.

Few people, outside of those actually engaged in the manufacture and exchange of goods, have any idea of how the percentage additions are made up and figured on to the cost of the goods before they are exposed for sale, and even very few of those realize to what an important extent usury and the reprisal for usury are interwoven in the make up of those prices, and how the usury is constantly increased along the whole movements of the goods by the handler's percentage addition to the cost.

The manufacturer, before he can add his profit charge to the goods, has first to make up the estimates of their cost as made up from the different assemblings that he forms into a union, the cost of the altering agents that may have worked upon them, the labor involved, the wear and tear of machinery waste, rents, power, State and

municipal taxation, interest upon investments, as well as the cost of marketing the goods, and very often their delivery, and the discounts he is forced to submit to for early payments upon the goods and for many little expenses constantly arising and which he generally classifies as "incidental expenses."

In nearly all of those items which the manufacturer must take notice of, with the exception of the labor directly involved, are large entwinements of usury; but he takes no notice of them as such, for they are enfolded in the price of the things as cost name.

But it is well for the people to give them notice, for the usury that has entered into the goods is going to be of an enlarging nature, although that usury increase goes not directly to the usurers, whose levies are now to be assessed into the goods by the manufacturer who has to meet the usurers' levies.

If that manufacturer considers that 25 per cent. is a sufficient amount to add as incidental expenses to the figures he has gathered of costs that he can easily specify, to cover those he cannot separately enumerate, then the usury already in the goods is increased 25 per cent., and then that enlarged amount will still be further enlarged by the charge added to the goods as profit, and if that percentage is 50 per cent. then 50 per cent.

more must be added to the sum the 25 per cent. addition has made.

No matter what the amount of the usury concerned amounts to, whether we figure it detachedly or connectedly with the manufacturers' selling price, it is always relatively increased by the incidental expense and profit charges.

To show how this increase is made so that all may understand, we will say that on a certain lot of goods the usurous entwinements amount to $110.00, and then add 25 per cent. to this to cover unenumerated shop expenses, and you increase the amount $27.50, which added to the $110.00 brings the amount up to $137.50, and the 50 per cent. of profit charge adds $68.75, making the total reach $206.25.

By looking those figures over carefully you will find that on account of $110.00 in usury charges that met the manufacturer, that manufacturer in making his reprisal has increased the amount of the tax he has met $95.25, swelling the grand total of the usurous tax thus far to $206.25.

Now the jobbers who take those goods from the manufacturer go through nearly the same process of figures that the manufacturer does, although in many cases they do not stop to separate the shop expense and the profit expense from each other in making up their selling price; but in

all cases where they do not the percentage figures blankets both in.

They all have many expenses to provide for—rents, clerk hire, transportation charges, insurance, interest charges, discounts, traveling expenses, and, outside of the labor they directly employ, more than one-half of all these charges are made up of or directly existent through usury.

If they want to average 25 per cent. on their sales as profit it is necessary for them to mark their goods on an average selling price 50 per cent. higher than they cost, marking some higher where the market permits it, and some very much lower where the market so demands.

But we will figure only 33⅓ per cent. as the amount of the combined shop expense and profit charge that the jobbers add to the goods and drop all intermediary agents which may stand between the jobber and the retailer, for it is primarily our object to show that usurous entwinements in the price of goods make growth with travel greater than the people are aware of, or would tamely submit to if they did realize.

Taking the amount of $206.25 which we have seen the usurous insertion of $110.00 grow to by the manufacturer's shop expense and profit percentage addition, and adding 33⅓ per cent. to it, to the goods leaving the jobber's hands, which makes the sum grow to $273.66, and passing those

same goods to the retailers to dispose of at the same average profit and expense charge, and we find that the people who buy the goods have paid $366.66 for usury because there was a usury charge of $110.00 at the start.

We will take a bill of $3,000 and run it through just the same percentage additions as we added for manufacturers, jobbers and retailers expense and profit charges and we will find that it amounts to $10,000; but if we take the $3,000 and add a usurous tax of $110.00 and repeat the same operation we have the sum of $10,455.54, showing that the usury has grown to $455.54.

As to the reader, the usury increase in the cost of goods as they are moved along is now noticeable through the reprisal made by the percentage additions on their way to the consumer before showing other examples to illustrate the usurous injections into the prices of goods we wish to direct attention to the fact that the injections so made by the business men are done through compulsion, and not through choice.

Usury has increased its obstructive power in everything entirely out of proportion to the labor wage of the day, and is constantly conspiring to increase its levies by forcing the price of labor down in order that the producing power of the country shall be more and more within its taxable control.

There is no business house in the country that has fixed percentages to rigidly apply alike on all of their transactions; for usury, directly and indirectly, plays through the various movements of men with such varying taxation that men cannot fix the confines to stake it in, and get at a measureable idea as to the amount of its abstractions.

Consequently without any fixed rules founded upon honorable principle, business of nearly all kinds becomes one of chance and virtual fraud and compels men to follow that rule that advises men to "buy in the cheapest and sell in the dearest market," which means the crowding down of those you buy from as low as you can without any regard as to whether you are paying them fairly or pushing them to sacrifice, and to sell at the highest point you can reach without a thought as to whether or not you are forcing an abstraction that may be entirely unjustifiable.

Goods go into the hands of the consumers at two, three, four, and even more times greater price than that the producer receives for them, and at the same time that producer has been obliged to bring forth the goods at prices he cannot flourish upon, for usury directly and indirectly abstracts not only his surplus, but encroaches even upon his power for continuing existence.

The agencies that forwarded the goods charged

high commissions and augmented the prices of the goods until the market received them only under the most laborious conditions, and yet these agencies have not reaped the benefit of the percentages they charged, or even a respectable portion of them, for usury has drained right and left, front and back of them, until there is but little, if anything left.

And all of these uncertainties and ill-payments of men for their labor are but the result of usury and the reprisals men attempt to make on one another to get rid of it themselves. The red-handed usurer — the syndicates, trusts, corporations and agencies he has working in his interest, and a few others win the successes in life while the many fail, for the conditions under which they work are unnatural, as must be evident to all who watch as they see one by one of those who achieved success for a time, and shifted by the reprisal the load cast upon them, at last unable to make the shift fall beneath the weight that has carried the great numbers down.

CHAPTER XI.

THE INTEREST AND REPRISAL COMBINATION.

We will now show the interest and reprisal workings in extending taxation from a clean business transaction which will be clear to every person that understands how goods are carried from the manufacturer to the consumer and under more favorable conditions than three-fourths of those goods now go out.

A, B & Co., a house in a western city selling to jobbers, write to C, D & Co., commission merchants in New York city, asking them for certain goods on four months' credit.

As A, B & Co. are considered good in responsibility, C, D & Co. decide to fill the order, and on making investigations they learn that on a spot cash basis they can procure the goods for $28,800.

C, D & Co. do not wish to overcharge A, B & Co., whom they look upon as good and safe customers. The interest charges must be paid, and they can either cover them in by a 10 per cent. profit charge, which is considered very low and favorable for the buyer by almost all the business houses, even when the buyer pays cash

for the goods, or they can charge the interest directly to A, B & Co., and only ask a 5 per cent. commission, which they decide to do.

Taking collateral securities to the bank they are informed that they can have accommodations upon them for six months at the rate of 8 per cent. per annum, or 4 per cent. for six months, which C, D & Co. consider safe as a matter of business precaution to cover a possibility of A, B & Co. making a part of the payment behind time or asking for a short extension upon the whole.

As the bank deducts the interest in advance, they are obliged to call for $30,000 in order to receive the price of the goods, $28,800, the interest being $1,200.

Charging 5 per cent. profit, they figure it on the $30,000 which the goods actually cost them, and send them to A, B & Co. with a bill for $31,500, which is just $100.00 less than it would have been if they blanketed the interest in and said nothing about it with a 10 per cent. charge.

A, B & Co. receive the goods and sell the same to retail stores at 20 per cent. advance, or for $37,830.

The retail stores sell the goods to the people at an average profit of 35 per cent., or for $51,070.

The disposition of the goods concluded, we can

now see what the $1,200 interest charge upon the start has grown to by its increase through the percentage rule in the reprisal system, and all of this taxation is taken from the consumers of the goods.

If the $1,200 had not been added as interest, we find by the use of same percentages in the same position that the goods would have only cost $48,988, showing that the $1,200 had in its short travel grown to $2,082, an increase of $882.00.

As there are millions of men in our country, who do not earn, upon an average 80 cents per day this little business operation has taken from the people the equivalent of 2,602½ days' labor, solely on account of the visible usury; the concealed usury vastly more, which we will show in another chapter.

And we ask the people who read this book to ponder over this usurous thieving that runs through all our commercial life and see if they cannot realize something of the causes that go to make the impoverishment of men.

This little transaction involved only $28,800 worth of goods in the start from the place of production, and if on this small sum so much robbery of men can be committed, what, then, is the amount involved in the largeness of our exchanges which amount to hundreds of billions of dollars?

And as you read further in this book of the

great usurous drainage system that is constantly going on, and of some of the means by which it works, you may wake up and see the reasons why labor is so poorly paid and why 95 per cent. of all our business men make failures.

CHAPTER XII.

THE INTEREST AND REPRISAL COMBINATION.

In the last chapter we said that the visible stealings made by usury were not all that usury took from the people on the little transactions mentioned therein.

C, D & Co. bought those goods for A, B & Co. direct from the makers, and there was consequently no intervention of middle-men to swell their cost.

The goods came from a large number of firms, as they embraced a large number of articles, but none of them were subject to any "patent" tax or for any assessment on account of any secret used in any process of manufacture.

Some of them came from large corporations with large capital, and some of them from small manufacturers with small capital; but all of them without any resultant benefit to themselves were obliged to overcharge for their goods on account

of the usurous taxation that met them through the interest and reprisal combination.

The State and the city or town in which these manufacturers are located have interest to pay on loans, which they must meet by levies upon the land, the buildings and the machinery which these manufacturers use; for the State makes the tools men employ in production, and those non-active factors they use in production, the land and the buildings, which produce nothing, and only furnish a place for activity to settle in, a perpetual injector of fresh taxation to be carried in an enlarged and enlarging amount in the output of these factories, because the State kneels at the shrine of the usurous god.

The corporation must earn interest upon its capitalization as well as profit on its products, for the stockholders have taken their money that was drawing "interest," or have hired that for which they must pay "interest," to establish those companies, and they declare that such amount must be returned to them before any profit can arise, and consequently interest is here made a prime factor of expense to be added with the State taxation to the figures which make up the cost of the goods, and which, when the percentage is added, is to become the selling price to the wholesale dealer when ushered out by those factories.

And the small manufacturer meets the rent lord who throws the State taxation and the inter-

est taxation of his mortgages upon them in the form of a reprisal to which he adds his "profit;" and the small manufacturer is obliged to add this taxation to the cost of the goods before he can add a profit and fix the wholesale price of the goods.

And the workers have suffered along the whole line on account of this heavy interest taxation, for the corporations have paid their workers less than what they should have received, and the small manufacturers have done the same thing; and in all probability have also underpaid themselves, because interest taxation striking them in the form of repeatedly enlarged reprisal taxation has placed such a heavy load upon them that they could not bridge the yawning chasms the heavy taxation required them to cross in order to shift the taxation upon others.

And when we consider that the raw products which those manufacturers used were the finished products of others when carried to these manufacturers' doors that had undergone a like system of taxation; that transportation charges had entered into those goods several hundred times in the assemblings of the different parts, and of the altering agents to work upon them, and also know the fact that transportation charges are largely made up of interest taxation, we make a very conservative statement when we declare that this gathering of

goods to the value of $28,800 went into the hands of A, B & Co. *for more than double what they would have gone on a doubled labor wage for the workers that produced them if usury did not exist.*

But we will only halve that price, though God's own truth is in that statement, that men may not judge it extravagant; for truth itself seems fiction to oppressed man when he is told of better things his mind has been trained to disbelieve possible of existence.

And under the condition of usury non-existent, the commission firm, the jobber and the retailer could have worked for one-half of the charges they made and still have more than double the amount of money that would be their own. But we will figure the commission percentage as 3 per cent., the jobbers' as 10 per cent. and the retailers' as 20 per cent. and we have the net cost of these goods to the people at $18,106, instead of $51,070, a difference of $32,964, or enough to double the pay of 4,120 of those men who work at 80 cents per day to $1.60; and it would benefit other workers by that amount of money which they would put into circulation for supplies they would need.

And in the keeping of these immense amounts, as reckoned through all our exchanges, in the hands of those to whom they belong, instead of flooding them to usurous hands, prosperity would

reign in every home and smile on all the land.

But to-day there is want and sadness all over the Nation; for usury is supreme, and everywhere throughout all the land all activities of the people are embarrassed by its stealings. Everything against the labor wage is on an artificial basis. Eighty cents of every dollar's worth of exchanges are usurous insertions which means when properly stated that the people pay for the things of use 400 per cent. more than they ought, and for no other compensation than the establishment of a usurous class in a tyrannical mastership over mankind at large.

Shall foul usury conquer us all
And the hopes of men for ages fall;
Or will the manhood of the Nation rise,
To strike and see that foul usury dies?

CHAPTER XIII.

LARGE LUMPS OF VISIBLE INTEREST TAXATION.

Interest robs the human millions
And gives the usurers money billions.

That the skin game on humanity of interest has existed so long is due to the fact that previous to the present century it did not have the opportuni-

ties for extension it has ever since enjoyed in an ever enlarging degree.

Previous to that time men were carried away with the specious argument that with a little money they could do this thing and do that and could well afford to pay for the use of money; but to-day the extension of usury taxation reaches beyond the limits of the legitimate divisions of any rewards earned in any honorable business in the demands it makes upon men, and instead of being an arrangement between the usurer and the man of business for sharing profits it has become the means of drawing into the usurers' hands four-fifths of the world's productive benefits.

We are sending forth from our school houses every year hundreds of thousands of graduates, and we ought to have from them the diffusion of a little information for the people's benefit of the power for robbery the usurers possess, when they work the laws of percentage for their abstractions of interest.

The usurer understands that power but the school graduate passes it by unnoticed as he takes his place and falls in with the habits of men in the struggles of the world, not for the reason that his knowledge of the percentage laws are less than those of the usurers, but for the reason that the usurer has had his mind centralized and trained to its strength in the potent and practical

possibilities they open up, while the school graduate has been carefully trained to pay no heed to their power when used for the purpose of making abstractions from the people.

But centralize the power of thought, not only of those school graduates, but of every person of intelligent reasoning powers upon the mighty wrongs being inflicted upon men by usury, and usury and the submittance of men to usury will be torn out from the habits of men.

Then you will not have politicians of the calibre of those of the present day, great toads in small puddles of small ideas, dividing the people into hostile parties upon such foolish cries as "the tariff customs make you poor," or "the tariff customs alone make you rich."

How long shall American citizens, groaning beneath the heavy load of usurous taxation their government is permitting to be heaped upon them, allow their intelligence to be insulted by the small political tricksters crying that "the foreigners pay the tariffs cutoms tax," as though the customs were the burden of taxation the people could make complaint of, when in reality it is only a very small and insignificant affair when compared to that colossus of robbery that, in the name of interest, plunders to poverty the people of the Nation.

Here are a few lumps of visible taxation that

the tricksters do not call attention to, for even they, with all their brazen fronts, have not the temerity to say "the foreigner pays the tax," preferring to keep silent upon the matter and draw attention from them as taxing factors as much as possible.

Among the larger items of our debts, as far as officially reported, are the following:

National debt of the United States (U. S. Census, 1890), ...	$ 891,960,104
State and Municipal debt (U. S. Census, 1890), ...	1,135,210,442
Railway bonds on 171,866 miles railway, 1892, (Poor's Manual, '93), . . .	5,463,611,204
The average farm and home debt shown by tabulation of partial returns from counties distributed throughout the Union, is $1,288 for farm and $924 for homes. If this average holds good for the United States there is an existing debt in force on the farms and homes of the United States occupied by owner (R. B. Porter, Supt. 11th Census, in North American Review, Vol. 153, page 618) of	2,500,000,000
Mortgaged Indebtedness of Business Realty, Street Railways, Manufactories and Business enterprise (estimated from partial reports of 11th Census), . .	5,000,000,000
Loans from 3,773 National Banks (Statistical Abstracts of the United States), .	2,153,769,806
Loans from 5,579 State, Saving, Stock and Private Banks and Trust Companies (Statistical Abstracts of the U. S.), .	2,201,764,292

If the same progressive ratio of increase is added to these figures that maintained from 1880

to 1890, over 5,000 million should now be added to the items above given.

These figures are taken from Coin's Financial School, and show, for the above items, an interest-bearing debt of $24,346,315,848, for which the interest at 5 per cent. would be $1,217,315,848; 6 per cent., $1,459,778,950; 7 per cent., $1,704,-242,109, or the equivalent of nearly seven millions (6,816,958) persons' wages yearly, who work 250 days each year at one dollar per day.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1895 the United States currency was in amount claimed $1,655,835,674. For the amount in actual circulation read article from Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector.

Is it any wonder that laborers have to struggle for an existence and that employers seek to pay labor as little as possible—that upon this beautiful green earth, which God so richly supplied with means to cover mens' wants, so many have to suffer?

Couple the foregoing taxation with the larger amounts that are interwoven more indirectly with it in all the varied transactions of life, and which are constantly being compounded by the reprisals in all their cris-crossings and inward and outward movements, and then contrast the amount of government circulation and you may realize the fact that if every dollar and every cent of that money

the United States provides for the people could be thrown into one heap it would pay for only a few weeks the amount of the usurous taxation that is going on in the United States.

The great Napoleon said: "When I look over the deadly possibilities contained in those interest tables, my wonder is why interest has not eaten up the world before this."

Now the world has its great Napoleons of finance, and mankind are commencing to enjoy the "deadly possibilities" contained in interest taxation and the laws that uphold it.

And not only are the workers and the people of the Nation in general suffering from the schemes of these "Napoleons," but thousands who have gathered accumulations and sought to make them bring in "income," by investing in corporations of great revenue gathering capacity, have learned and are constantly learning that these great Napoleons can make these corporations turn over to themselves the money derived from the investments these parties have made, as guaranteed interest claims of first consideration in the secured mortages and bonds, which they induce the management they are represented in, to plaster over the property, and, when they have sucked up the life blood of the corporation's financial resources, the wiping out process is completed by the reorganization, which leaves the Napoleons in

full command to watch for and grab in new victims to plunder.

Let men who believe that they have some rights upon earth greater than the privilege of working for interest thieves study attentively the following table of the power of compounded interest to impoverish a people :

$1.00 for 100 years compounded with int. at 1 p. c. amounts to										$2.75
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 2	"	"	7.25
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 2½	"	"	11.75
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 3	"	"	19.25
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 4	"	"	50.50
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 5	"	"	131.50
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 6	"	"	340.00
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 7	"	"	868.00
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 8	"	"	2,203.00
"	"	"	"	"	"	"	" 9	"	"	5,543.00

Mark well the fact that while compounded interest at 3 per cent. amounts to $19.25 on a single dollar, on double that rate of interest, or 6 per cent., it amounts to $340.00; at $4\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. to $81.25; at 9 per cent. to $5,543.00, and as the percentages rise there is a startling increase in power for robbery.

Let every sensible man stop and reflect on what good is accomplished by usury's confiscations, men eating men like savages, for the benefit of a few individuals to reap into their hands the wealth of the world.

CHAPTER XIV.

THE INTEREST MONGERS' GRASP UPON THE WORLD.

We hear the remark from one of those men whose mind has been educated to look upon interest as a divine commission for man to rob man when he has the opportunity, "this is not the only land where people have to pay interest."

"It is true! and pity 'tis 'tis true!"

And what are the "rights" that people enjoy in other lands?

'Tis the "right" to work and tug, and tug and work for class aggrandizement, the privilege to be kicked and cuffed, to go half clad, half fed, and to be spit upon for doing so and being such.

Jay Cooke, the New York banker of memorable fame, taught, ere Jay Cooke went down, that a National Debt was a national blessing.

And here is a showing of a part of the grand "blessing" some of the nations of the Old World are working for.

Fifty nations are in debt to the amount of thirty billions of dollars, and in these figures a

rich field is presented for some of our great political economists to delve in and speculate upon how many thousands of years it will take the people of those lands of human drudgery, with the usurers sitting on top of them, to earn enough to make themselves free by getting ahead of the usurous taxation and schemes for the enlargement and perpetuation of the debts.

They can start with England, which section of the British Empire is said to pay the larger wage, and figure that body down until they reach India, where the worker is allowed to get six or eight weeks' living out of the crops he labored so hard to raise, and the pawn-broking English shark grabs the remainder, and kindly turns around and sells the laborer, on the security of a mortgage on the next season's crop, enough to keep him alive and give him seed for the planting, upon an interest charge that will swell his claim to such proportions as will bring about a repetition of the same conditions.

Then they can change the order of their traveling and go to Austria-Hungary, where labor in many sections is not worth more than the equivalent of eighty cents per week in our money, and then reach over to the better paid labor in France and Germany, and, as the deductions they make can only be speculative and harmless, they will be entitled to more respect and do

less damage to mankind than they are now doing by misleading many men, through the foolish endeavor to stop the progress of the world, in sending forth "new" tricky ideas to make the usurers' old promulgations look respectable.

Let men think of the enslaving powers of these figures, which represent only the national and not the private debts of the people of those countries.

Debt of	Gt. Britain and Ireland	$3,350,719,563
"	Austria-Hungary	2,866,339,539
"	Italy	2,324,826,329
"	Russia	3,491,018,074
"	Spain	1,251,453,696
"	France	4,446,793,398
"	India	881,063,592
"	Bavaria	335,503,105
"	Turkey	821,000,000
"	Prussia	1,109,384,127

These nations are only cited from the list of those that are in debt to show what men have to live in those lands in the way of a "national blessing;" and if we were able to show the private amounts subject to interest taxation we would be able to appreciate the world blessing showered on humanity by the usurers.

And this is the "Peace Establishment" in some

of those nations that keep the toilers from making vigorous protests:

Germany	545,136 men
France	567,464 "
Russia	1,112,684 "
Italy	220,000 "
Great Britain	139,000 "
Turkey	189,165 "
Spain	143,197 "
Austria-Hungary	344,450 "

And here is a list of their registered paupers from their own counting:

Great Britain and Ireland	887,580
Russia	107,127
Germany	320,000
Austria	290,000
France	285,000
Italy	275,000

These are the registered paupers, and does not include the millions that those governments do not take care of, and who are so poor in most cases that they have no place to rest their heads and very seldom any idea of where their meals are coming from, except as charity supplies them.

The other nations of the Old World do not register their paupers in any systematic manner, if at all, and they may be conjectured from India, where most of the people are virtually enslaved

under such a despotism that they are not much better than paupers, to the other lands that have a limitation—God knows where!

CHAPTER XV.

"A ROSE BY ANOTHER NAME WOULD SMELL AS SWEET."

WHAT we call interest to-day is only that same old system of robbery which, from its late change of name, runneth through all the centuries to days that preceded the writings of the Old Testament under the name of usury.

Until these late days through all time usury was considered an infamous crime, hated and despised of all men and the church, the usurer being outlawed, hunted, whipped and often put to death.

From an old song we have the axiom, "A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." In old usury and modern interest we have a distinction of terms without a difference, the poisonous sheen by another name.

The Christian Church always waged a bitter warfare against usury for all the centuries of its existence, until these latter days when the usurers securing a change of name for their dealings succeeded in having the sickening stench of ages

declared a sweet perfume, whose exhalations secures the usurer installation as a beneficial member of society.

To-day we have Christian Churches of all denominations resorting to usury to secure an income, and in the "livery of Heaven" they serve the devil by taking to themselves the stealings from men; and the nerve that some of these disciples of God display in coolness of purpose would freeze to paralysis, as with ice, the nerve of the thief who limits his abstractions upon men to the confines of his visit and its opportunities.

The apologist for this dipping into usury by the Christian Church, who does not like it, but does not wish to condemn the Church, says: "The Church has grown worldly, but it is still the best institution that we have."

But why has the Christian Church grown worldly? Is it because the love of plunder has grown so universal that desire for easy gain, overcoming conscience as to method, has spread to the Christian Church and made pelf, instead of virtue, the sustaining pillars of the Christian religion?

The Christian Church has no excuse in resorting to usurous practices for its sustainment, for they are in direct contravention of its principles, and if its ministers or boards of directors are inclined to reaping gain by resort to infamous

usury, then from the humble communicants should come the command that will make these men, who defile the Temple of God, step down and out, and give place to worship instead of profanation of God.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE GREAT USUROUS COMBINATIONS OPERATING IN THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC.

An indisputable condition of ill confronts the people of the American Republic in the fact that their rulers, their gods of supremacy on earth, are now centralized in the great usury combinations operating in London and New York, with ramifications reaching and working throughout the American Union.

Abraham Lincoln warned you of the dangers that were before you, and told you that the dangers of the Civil War were nothing to those that you must yet confront, and that he feared for his country that "all of liberty would be lost."

But you heed not his admonitions, for they are on a subject you have never given the attention it deserves, and, for want of that reflection, have become rattled through the various causes alleged to be responsible for the conditions under which you suffer.

Daily reading your political papers you do not realize, for you do not wish to believe that the issues in your political campaigns have been and are guided by a band of financial conspirators in London with partners and well fed agents in all American cities.

They plan to live under either party, although for the furtherance of their design they prefer one over the other. Their agents mix in and feed both political parties with money so as to be better able to shape things as they will, and the Limited Democracy of the United States is as easily a managed affair as the Limited Monarchy of Great Britain is willingly subservient.

It is not a King George with the direct taxation which worked up the ire of our forefathers which is crowding us all to-day. His taxation was visible to all, and they took the tea with his stamps of taxation upon the chests and threw them into the waters of Boston Bay.

The impoverishing taxation that to-day confronts us is not that of an established general government, but is one levied by corporations and individuals working in combination, and singly, who exercise a greater despotism in their dealings with men and impose heavier taxation than any general government would dare to undertake, or would long reign if it did in any land of intelligent people; and yet these private despotisms are

so intrenched and empowered by our bad legislation as to be able to employ the courts of our country to carry out their mandates for fleecing, degrading, and impoverishing our people.

It is not the great corporations who enter the industrial field for the purpose of manufacturing or of agriculture that we are to fear. These are the outgrowths from the conditions that usury has forced upon the country, and stand in that long line of unimpeachable testimony of the state of things which usury has brought about, for usury has impoverished the people of the country to such a condition that the markets where industry seeks to make its exchanges are constantly crying for lower and lower prices, and these industrial combinations have heen organized in resistance to such call.

Destroy usury and the great thieves that are preying upon the Nation will disappear, and these industrial combinations for putting up the prices will break up, for the potent reason that they contain within themselves the positive conditions that will work their own impotency and disintegration.

Give them no special favors, prevent their controlling the raw materials, and provide fair and equal transportation services for all, and in almost every line these combinations enter, outside individual competition will knock them down; for

every movement beyond a certain limitation will mean increased cost of production and greater exposure for attack with still less power for defense.

Even now, of all the great syndicates and combinations of this nature that have been formed, some of which had their birth through fear of an approaching bankruptcy by the projectors who conspired their existence, there are but very few not controlling a patent monopoly or a grasp upon the raw material that have been able to make, upon a bona-fide business base, any remarkable showing upon their capitalization; while some have had to resort to Wall street methods of stock gambling, or other swindling devices to raise their dividends.

It was not against this class of corporations, who would produce and live more honestly if they could, that Abraham Lincoln felt alarm, for they have come into existence since the days he was on earth; but it was against those blood-sucking interest-gathering corporations in the shape of banks, money dealers and railroad corporations, whose great business is the juggling of those forces for plunder that compel agriculture, manufacture and commerce, to part with the wealth they create through usurous ensnarements.

You know the bitter, bitter trials you have gone through. If that light which comes from what Patrick Henry called the Lamp of Experi-

ence has not made it visible to you that the usurers caused the two great financial panics and many years of business depression during the past quarter of a century, then you are too dull to realize what has squeezed you and plundered you right and left and causes the so-called White Slavery of to-day.

Let no man who values the liberty of his country and the maintenance of human rights throw aside those words of one of the greatest men in our history; he who presided as Chief Executive of our Republic through the darkest and wildest hours we ever knew, when the advice of frightened friend was as dangerous a thing to handle as the open foe before him to confront.

These are the warning words of Abraham Lincoln:

"Let them beware of surrendering a political power they now have and which if surrendered will surely be used to close the door against such as they, and to fix new disabilities and burdens upon them *till all of liberty shall be lost.*"

"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me, and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. As a result of the War corporations have been enthroned, and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to pro-

long its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people, until all wealth is aggregated into a few hands, and the Republic is destroyed."

And the money power did conspire and got your small and partisan statesmen to whoop up the little matters that your prejudices were nursing, and stir you up to such excitement about them that, under the imbecility of your petty thoughts, they could fix the chains that have since commenced to wind their enslaving links around you and against which you make such feeble opposition.

When the Republic fails to protect the people, though its machinery runs on just the same, the Republic *is* destroyed.

Remember the warning words of Abraham Lincoln: "The money power will work upon and prolong your prejudices and centralize your wealth into their hand,

Till all of liberty shall be lost!
Till all of liberty shall be lost!"

CHAPTER XVII.

CAN THE WORLD GET ALONG WITHOUT USURERS?

No doubt there are many people who believe honestly that the world cannot get along without usurous taxation.

They reason that it is necessary for men to get money to carry out enterprises, and that men with money will not lend their property without getting an equivalent for it. And they further justify it on the ground that "money makes money," always using this expression to clinch their arguments.

That the world can get along without the necessity of those levies upon individual by individual in the form of "interest" is not only possible, but imperatively necessary that it shall do so in the interests of humanity, who will immeasurably gain thereby in all directions.

If civilization cannot throw down the institutions that were nursed by a semi-civilization only for purposes of robbery; if governments cannot employ their legitimate prerogatives for the protection of the people; if the usurer is so supreme that the artificial prices of men's exchanges by the interest insertion cannot be changed, then civilization must be pushed on until it comes into control.

Many things that men look upon through their ignorance as being beyond the accomplishment of men have come to be established facts, and have shown so much advantage over things they displaced as to create wonder how the world got along with the old.

When Columbus sought to get means to find a

west passage to the Indies many of the wise men of the time ridiculed his plans inquiring: "How is it possible for people to live on the other side of a round world with their heels upward and their heads downward, or for trees to grow with their branches downward and their roots upward?"

And others thought that even if a ship should succeed in reaching India by sailing west it would never be able to return, for the roundness of the earth would form a kind of mountain, up which it would be impossible to sail.

But Columbus and his followers sailed, and while they did not reach India they did finally discover the continent of America, and here to-day, in its northern part, the hope of humanity centers—for this is the land that is going to work out and fight out to victory the emancipation of man from the bondage of slavery.

People who do not conceive how it is possible that the business of life can be carried on without interest-taxation should reflect for a moment how the country could get along if all the money holders with their money were driven across or into the sea.

Many people fail to realize the fact that while money in one form or another is a vital necessity for a nation it is no part of its vital wealth.

Could a conspiracy be formed that would be powerful enough to strip the nation of its entire

money to-morrow, by taking not only that which has always been open for export if its commodity value grew greater than its measuring one, but also such money as has never been liable to removal, on account of its measuring value always exceeding its commodity one, they could not beggar the nation, nor do more than momentarily embarass it by compelling an awaiting the creation and distribution of a new supply, which the people can always issue if they maintain and make operative their inherent rights.

With a proper appreciation of those facts, we must be more than stupid if we fail to realize that it is within the power of the people in this respect to legislate good or ill upon themselves, dethrone or more firmly enthrone the usurer, and make good times or bad times by stimulating or depressing the activities of men.

And what a grand revolution will be wrought in the condition of the masses of the people when thousands of millions of dollars of annual taxation imposed by the usurers upon them, shall be done away with, and agriculture, manufacture, and commerce, ceasing to be assessed by, or to continue as collectors for the usurers, find before them larger and unimpoverished markets.

And the poor human weaklings of to-day, who under their non-resistance to the interest taxers have become imbued with the idea that people

would drop off the face of the earth, through want of means to hold themselves thereon if interest was abolished, will become more interesting figures in the history of the weakness of men, on account of the sufferings they submitted to when they had great opportunities of acquiring intelligence enough to make them know better, than have become the scoffers who sought to block the expedition of Columbus, by inquiring how people could live on the other side of a round earth, with their feet upward and their heads downward.

"There's a fount about to stream,
There's a light about to beam,
There's a warmth about to glow,
There's a flower about to blow,
There's a midnight darkness
Changing into gray,
Men of thought, and men of action,
Clear the way!

Aid the dawning tongue and pen;
Aid it hopes of honest men;
Aid it paper; aid it type;
Aid it, for the hour is ripe;
And our earnest must not slacken
Into play.
Men of thought, and men of action!
Clear the way!
Lo! the right's about to conquer;
Clear the way!

With the right shall many more
Enter smiling at the door;
With the giant wrong shall fall
Many others, great and small,
That for ages long have held us
For their prey.
Men of thought, and men of action,
Clear the way!" — *Mackay.*

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE GOLD BASIS AND THE PANIC OF 1819.

In 1818 the United States Bank with its eighteen branches had made discounts to the amount of forty-three millions of dollars and had only two millions of dollars in specie to support the issue.

Strenuous efforts were made to increase the specie reserve, and at a cost of eight hundred thousand dollars as the expense for gathering it, seven millions of dollars of bullion was brought from abroad, but the scheming Bank of England wanted it and juggled it into her vaults.

Congress questioning the bank's solvency compelled the bank to resort to vigorous measures, and a contraction of its notes of a violent nature set in ruining men right and left.

Banks were rocky everywhere, and they scrambled for gold in every direction, but gold was not to be had.

A few banks in the South maintained "gold payments," but people grew tired of their slowness of movement in paying it out. In many banks if a person took a note calling for one, two, five or ten dollars and asked for gold he

was obliged to wait until five directors were present, when before them and the cashier, at an expense of $1.37 on each note, he was required to make oath that the bill was his own, and that he was not an agent for any one. In those days the Southern bankers knew how to make a little of the "sound basis of money" stretch out a long way when called upon to redeem their notes.

The condition of the country was bad everywhere, for gold, the usurer's dear old sheeny god of honest money, had sneaked away, as it ever did, and ever will, at the approach of a crisis.

All over the land in groups could be seen a hundred men all having a first lien mortgage on the same gold dollar, hunting to find that little amount of the usurers' "proper basis of money."

Let all men who believe in usury, and gold as the "proper basis" of honest money, read of the condition of things as reported by a committee of the Senate of Pennsylvania on the 20th day of February, 1820:—

"In ascertaining the extent of the public distress your committee had no difficulties to encounter. Members of the legislature from various quarters of the State, have been consulted in relation to this subject, and their written testimony in answer to interrogations submitted to them by the committee, has agreed, with scarcely a single exception, on all material points. With such

respectable weight of evidence, added to that which has been derived from the prothonotaries, recorder and sheriffs of the different counties, from intercourse with numerous private citizens residing in different parts of the State, as well as from the various petitions presented to the legislature, your committee can safely assert that a distress unexampled in our country since the period of independence prevails throughout the commonwealth.

This distress exhibits itself under the various forms of

1. Ruinous sacrifices of landed property at sheriffs' sales, whereby, in many cases, lands and houses have been sold at less than one-half, a third or a fourth of their former value, thereby depriving of their homes, and of the fruits of laborious years, a vast number of our industrious farmers, some of whom have been driven to seek, in the uncultivated forests of the West, that shelter of which they have been deprived in their native State.

2. Forced sales of merchandise, household goods, farming stocks and utensils, at prices far below the cost of production, by which many families have been deprived of the common necessaries of life, and of the implements of their trade.

3. Numerous bankruptcies and pecuniary embarrassment of every description, as well among

the agricultural and manufacturing as the mercantile classes.

4. A general scarcity of money throughout the country, which renders it almost impossible for the husbandman or other owners of real estate to borrow at a usurous rate, and where landed security of the most indubitable character is offered as a pledge. A similar difficulty of procuring on loans had existed in the metropolis previous to October last, but has since been partially removed.

5. A general suspension of labor, the only legitimate source of wealth, in our cities and towns, by which thousands of our most useful citizens are rendered destitute of the means of support, and are reduced to the extremity of poverty and dispair.

6. An almost entire cessation of the usual circulation of commodities and a consequent stagnation of business, which is limited to the mere purchase and sale of the necessaries of life, and of such articles of consumption as are absolutely required by the season.

7. A universal suspension of all manufacturing operations by which, in addition to the dismissal of the numerous laborers heretofore engaged therein, who can find no other employment, the public loses the revenue of the capital invested in machinery and buildings.

8. Usurous extortions, whereby corporations instituted for banking, insurance and other purposes, in violation of law, possess themselves of the products of industry without granting an equivalent.

9. The overflowing of our prisons with insolvent debtors, most of whom are confined for trifling sums, whereby the community loses a portion of its effective labor, and is compelled to support families by charity who have been deprived of their protectors.

10. Numerous law suits upon the dockets of our courts and of our justices of the peace, which lead to extravagant costs and loss of a great portion of valuable time.

11. Vexatious losses arising from the depreciation and fluctuation in the value of bank notes, the impositions of brokers and the frauds of counterfeiters.

12. A general inability in a community to meet with punctuality the payment of debts even for family expenses, which is experienced as well by those who are wealthy in property as by those who have hitherto relied upon their current engagements. With such a mass of evils to oppress them, it cannot be wondered at that the people should be dispirited, and that they should look to their representatives for relief. Their patient endurance of suffering, which can only be imag-

ined by those who have habitually intermingled with them at their homes and by their firesides, merits the commendation of the legislature and prefers a powerful claim to their interference."

If such an official report were made to-day to a State legislature the committee making it would be quickly denounced as anarchists by the large newspapers of the country, which are all under usurous control.

People who think usury is right want to study the results of the taxation and control of the people's prosperity and welfare by usurous hands, and they may come to the conclusion that the prevention of men from benefiting by the capital God has given them to work with is not only a crime against man but a blasphemy of God.

This official picture of the conditions existing in the 1819 panic, so far as it goes, is true of all panics, but to the latter ones you must add harrowing tales of immorality, crimes, suicides, murders, men and women trading their virtues for an existence, tramps, beggars, sudden deaths through heart-failure and painful ones through inability of response to nature's demands if you wish to truthfully realize what the fat-bellied old usurers have wrought in these days of modern Christian civilization.

Count up the years of duration of panics usur-

ers have made in this country in the last seventy-five years, and you can name their number, but you cannot count up or realize the millions of people that have suffered robbery, poverty, hardships and death through usury.

In 1809 a panic; in 1814 a panic; in 1819 a panic; in 1825 a panic; in 1837-39-41 panic; in 1857 a panic; in 1873 a panic; in 1893 a panic; while great business depressions have intervened, lasting sometimes two or three years and every one of them the result of usury or usurous schemes.

What is the end of government?—is it to promote the welfare and secure the prosperity of the people?—or is it the creation of a favored class to hand the people over to, with privileges and powers to confiscate to themselves the people's wealth?

CHAPTER XIX.

THE SPECIE BASIS AND PANIC OF 1873.

LET those men who believe there should be honor among men, that love their country and desire to have it uphold no institutions that inflict wrongs and poverty upon the people, study with a determination to reach the truth the effects that interest taxation has had on the nation for the last three-quarters of a century of

its existence, fairly allowing the first quarter of the century for the rounding of the government into directable form.

If they study the country's history correctly, not its fourth of July orations and the fire-works, but the great financial crises, and money panics, that have so often impoverished it, they will find that all the great disasters of business disturbance and money panics have been caused by interest taxation, either in the fullness of its devastation, or in the schemes of the usurers to enlarge their grip upon the people by securing an increase of their power for making abstractions.

And it is well to notice that during the period of the extension of usury, and its formation as an exact science for gathering the world's wealth, the specie basis system has been a great trump card, with appearing and disappearing spots, in the bunco game of fleecing humanity.

Originally the Bank of England employed the specie basis system for the purpose of gaining favor with the people, but it soon discovered that it was a powerful agent for centralizing the wealth of the many in a few hands by the opportunities it presented for interest taxation, by using it as a base on which to fabricate a duplication of instruments for interest extortion.

The usurer always declares for money with a commodity value. In olden days the usurers,

owing to the danger they were constantly exposed to on account of their business, sought for something portable, and as gold and silver was everywhere salable for purposes of ornamentation they naturally selected them.

And for centuries the usurers declared gold and silver to be divinely appointed for purposes of money, but latterly the supply of both metals becoming larger than they wanted to use as a basis of money, they decided to advocate only one and threw silver down, conspiring to have all nations declare gold the "honest basis" for money.

The dangerous nature of the usurers' character was painfully manifest during our struggles in the civil war, and caused at times the officials in charge of the government more embarrassment and discouragement than all the other factors unitedly that they had to deal with in the conduct of the war. Animated only by their love of gain they sought and succeeded in prolonging the period and multiplying the cost of the war, conspiring in and out of Congress to break down the government securities so as to get them cheap, and when the war was over and the soldiers paid off they turned around and made the government securities, bought from thirty-five to fifty cents upon the dollar, as dear as possible, by holding them so much above their par value as to make

the government in its efforts to redeem them for the purpose of refunding at a lower rate of interest, pay compensating damages. by demanding a premium upon their written face for the shortening of the time they were to draw the larger per cent., although on those same securities they had drawn in interest nearly as much as they had paid for them.

Nor were they satisfied with the bleeding of the government. The people's independence must be broken down in order to control them, so that, henceforth, they must become workers for the usurers' benefit instead of their own.

The large volume of money in circulation was a barrier to the usurers' schemes, and they decided its great bulk should be replaced by interest-bearing bonds, and the reduced volume of money left at such a low point in amount that all kinds of business should kneel at their shrine and pay tribute.

Avowing themselves as only desirous of getting the financial system of the country upon a "sound basis of honest money" they wined, dined, and patronizingly flattered Hugh McCullough, the Secretary of the Treasury, and a few members of the American Congress, until they unmanned them and made them push through those financial measures the usurers had shaped as their chosen ones for the taxation of the American people.

Abraham Lincoln died on the fifteenth day of April, 1865 from the wounds inflicted by Booth, and it left easy work for the usurers in carrying out their plots to make the United States a greater field than the world has ever known for usurous occupancy.

Evidenced by indisputable facts that the loyal section of the Nation had grown rich while carrying on the greatest war of modern times, and that the resources of the country were great and inexhaustible, and that a reunited country would produce vast wealth the usurers left no stone unturned that would aid in the consummation of their desire.

Yelping politicians shouting the glories of the Republican party were in control in Congress. More gifted in waving the "bloody shirt" and firing the Northern heart with wild tales about that great Southern bugaboo, the Ku Klux Klan, than in shaping that wise financial legislation which the situation demanded, the cute old usurers were not slow in seeing their opportunities, and by helping to keep those passions stirred up, and the yelling going on, that which they could not have done openly and with exposed end, they did secretly, sneakingly, and with concealed purpose.

It must be remembered that during the last years of the war, and for a few years thereafter, business flourished on every hand. When balked

and robbed by usurous hands the government determinedly brought forth the Greenbacks, bidding the usurers defiance, it put into the hands of the people an actuate by which they could employ their capital and set the wheels of industry in motion; and so steadily and rapidly did those wheels revolve that the Nation made riches faster than the wastes of war were destroying its wealth, and when the war was over and the armies were disbanded, the return of a million men to labor disturbed no enterprise, but gave all acceleration as they filed in to increase the productive forces of the Nation.

With the cordiality of the spider that invited the fly to his cozy parlor, the usurers advised the lessening of the rates of interest the American people were paying on their bonds by the refunding of them into those of a lower rate, running for a long term, well knowing that for all that was in their hands they could compel the payment of a premium to compensate for the exchange.

With the extension of the bonds, the money of the American people turned into interest bearing bonds, and the doubly usurous output of the national banks taking the place of that money, reinforced by the usurers' well-known private substitutes, American energy and capital handicapped and taxed in all directions would be compelled to kneel at usury's altar.

Those sharp old usurers of London and New York always work with a matured plan, and never put any puppets upon the stage to dance except to further their purpose and conceal the design.

The London newspapers dwelt upon the uncertainties of American finance and the lack of an honest basis for money, and the New York newspapers and those of other American cities explained to the people that if the United States had only a "sound basis" of money "how good American securities and bonds would be all over the world."

As a preliminary for getting down to a specie basis at the usurers' behests, a large part of the money of the country was turned into interest bearing bonds, and the rest so much contracted that business men were obliged to resort to giving and accepting private notes and other individual acknowledgements of indebtedness, and fly to the usurers and ask for their favors.

The usurers were happy. They sounded praises for the government on all the passing winds.

Henceforth the agricultural, manufacturing and commercial activities of the American people were to be carried on mainly for the usurers' benefit. The next enlargement of the circulating medium of the country had only to be held in check and the usurers' control would be complete.

But in a short time the business men were in a

maze. They were paying and paying interest taxation. The profits of their business were slipping away from them—something was wrong! Business seemed to be going on all around them! They looked to themselves in the hope of finding something for the correction—to their product to see if it was what it ought to be—to their customers to see if they had suddenly become stricken with freaks.

Interest was getting in its deadly work. The usurers were supreme. A small volume of money and the laws of the land enthroned them as the ruling power over a Nation that boasted freedom as its possession.

With no sounds of warning, no shocks of calamities, or hesitation in the markets, the business men of the Nation in 1873 were brought face to face with the fact that a great panic had set in.

Unable to follow the mesh-work of threads that had ensnared them to the hands that set the traps, the business men furtively glanced at one another with askance as to what caused the other's embarrassment, while the sharp old interest-pullers looking on with their forefingers at the side of their nose, complacently volunteered the information that the prevailing misfortune was due to too much speculation and over-trading, but "*all those that had some good securities they would help out very reasonably.*"

During the years 1868 and 1869 more than one thousand millions of dollars of currency notes were destroyed and gold-interest long term bonds substituted in their place. Not only was it the scheme of the usurers to get rid of the interest bearing currency that was used in the larger transactions of trade and financial exchange, by their conversion into gold-interest bonds, but they sought to get rid of the Greenback circulation as fast as they could, and up to July, 1868, more than seventy million of dollars were destroyed, as it would all have been did not Congress under the pressure of public protest pass a law in 1868 declaring "that from and after its passage the authority of the Secretary of the Treasury to make any reduction of the currency by retiring or cancelling United States' notes (Greenback) shall be and is hereby repealed."

From 1870 to 1872 one hundred and fourteen millions more of currency went out of circulation in furtherance of the usurers' plans. The following tables tell their own story:

Amount of money, currency and circulating medium of the United States, September 1, 1865:

United States Notes	$ 433,160,569
Fractional Currency	26,344,742
National Bank Notes	185,000,000
Compound Interest Legal Tender Notes	217,024,160
Temporary Loan Certificates	107,148,713
Certificates of indebtedness	85,093,000
Treasury 5 % Legal Tenders	32,536,991
Past Due Treasury Notes, not presented	1,503,020
State Bank Notes	78.867,575
Three Year Treasury Notes	30,000,000
Total Amount,	$1,996,678,770

Circulating medium December 1, 1873,

United States Notes	$367,001,685
Fractional Currency	48,000,000
Certificates of Indebtedness	678,000
National Bank Currency	350,000,000
Total,	$765,679,685

Showing a contraction from September 1, 1865 to December 1, 1873, $1,230,999,085.

The people did not realize what their representatives in Congress were doing, and, as a matter of truth, we will add a majority of those representatives did not know themselves.

The granting of authority to the Secretary of the Treasury, or to the President of the United States, or to both of them jointly, to use their discretion in regard to the volume of the people's money, or the issuance of bonds, is something that cannot be intelligently explained by a reference

to the authority of the *Constitution which delegates those powers to Congress alone*, or as a matter of safety to the people whose welfare and happiness is thereby placed at the discretion of two individuals, whose plans and ideas may be as antagonistic as the commission of their "discretion" is foolish.

We may say that the people were to blame, and in a great measure they were; but who can the people trust if not the representatives they select, and even those representatives may, in turn, had some excuse for not knowing what was going on, for they were not trained to know the dirty schemes that usurers resort to, and were wholly unsuspicious of the dark schemes the conspirators were secretly pushing through by the employment of duped tools with delegated powers which Congress would never have allowed if it thought its confidence was going to be betrayed and the American people made victims of the most vicious and unprincipled despoilers the world has ever known.

But Congress was not attending to its duty, and passion was rolling the waves of sectional hatred, whose seas the usurers kept in disturbance for the purpose of limiting the vision that might take in their plans. The citizens of the Republic had listened to a lot of Republican yelpers and a lot of Democratic ones, and finding that one set screamed only about the policy of the other

set in regard to the ways to be pursued towards the late rebellious States, they thoughtlessly allowed themselves to be made believe that their welfare was involved in such issue.

And on came the inevitable result, the existence of whose causes were unknown to Congress, unknown to the American people whose individual members saw nothing but the hand of an inexorable fate working against them that their pride must hide and try to overcome at any cost.

And that tale which has been told before in plain and homely language of the conditions that precede a financial panic can be told without the usurers' endorsement that the trouble was "caused by over-trading, over-production and wild speculations;" the while calling the readers' attention to the fact that previous to the working of the usurers' conspiracy the people were free from embarrassment and out of debt.

Money grew less plentiful and business men grew uneasy. People did not pay as punctually as before. Buyers that had paid cash right along delayed payments, then asked for a little time, reporting customers slow in making payments. Credit commenced to take place of cash. Notes of individuals commenced to be used largely, the usurers offering accommodations on good paper. General business grew a little slow, for interest was getting larger. Business men had to raise

more money, and they went to the usurers and executed mortgages on their property, and the usurers helped them let their pride drop easily by speaking of the "terrible conditions of everything" and how they had been obliged to take a greater number of mortgages and lend more money on collaterals than ever before and at "higher rates." Some business houses paid curb-stone brokers as much as three and four per cent. per month for accommodations. A manufacturing house worth many millions received accommodations on a call loan at the rate of eighteen per cent. per annum. Another large house was more lucky and got the favor at 15 per cent. Business men fared hard, but—hark! what is that mighty crash? It is the coming of the panic of 1873!—the falling of business houses all over the land. When the money was in the hands of the people and the usurers could not control it all the business men could live—but with the usurer, his favors and taxation on top, marching in comes "smash."

Usury! hunted and hated by church and man for centuries, had now placed millions of energetic, respectable citizens of the American Republic where they were powerless to defend themselves.

The forced suspension, or diminution of operations by the business men reacted upon the people and caused extreme embarrassment in every direc-

tion where people were dependent upon their daily wages or small savings for an existence. Many factories and works of different kind could give no work to men through inability of getting means to go on, or of disposing of their productions if they succeeded in procuring such means, while most of those that continued in operation reduced the wages of their workers.

This panic was memorable for being the first period in the history of our country in which hundreds of thousands of men willing and anxious to work but unable to procure it in their localities, resorted to the plan of trying to find it in other sections of the country, traveling from place to place until the whole land became covered with men moving in all directions in the hope of finding some employment. Without means of paying their way they fell back on the only thing that was left them to do in order to keep up an existence, by living on berries or apples they found growing wildly by the wayside, or resorting to cultivated fields for turnips, tomatoes or other eatable flowerings of vegetation, and when these failed the citizen of the great American Republic, driven by desperation of hunger, became a beggar at back-doors for enough food to keep them from perishing.

And how did the assembled wisdom in our State Legislatures meet the conditions that confronted

them in this great, plainly-marked wave of growing poverty among their fellow countrymen?

Instead of going to work and seeking out its causes for the purpose of exterminating them they showed such a lack of manly thought as to establish the fact that they were so blind to moral responsibilities and to their own condition, being only happier chance, as to consider that repressive legislation against their unhappy fellow-citizens, going through the country looking for work, by making it a punishable offence for a traveling stranger to ask for anything to eat.

These laws which teach men to steal, rather than to beg, when they are hungry still stand on the statute books of many of our States, and will probably remain there until we have men in the halls of legislation who are men and wise enough and great enough to take hold and tear them out, and substitute those in their stead that will make the usurers, who rob men to such ill conditions as to make beggars and tramps, the outlaws instead of their victims.

And not only is the panic of 1873 memorable for the tramps, the poverty, the degradation that followed in its train, but because through all time in all preceding history of the world men may look in vain to find so powerful and so far reaching a conspiracy for suddenly changing the condition of a prosperous Nation to want, and trials, and busi-

ness wrecks as that one which in the 1873 panic made the people understand something was wrong.

CHAPTER XX.

THE PANIC OF 1893 AND THE USURERS' BUSY TIMES.

With hearts that are black in sin
Men's wealth the usurers gather in.

THE panic of 1893 differed from that of 1873 in these particulars. The 1873 panic first struck the business men, and their embarrassments, failures and suspensions of business reacted upon and injuriously struck the people, while the panic of 1893 was the direct result of the people's impoverishment through interest drainage.

To such an extent were people made poor through this drainage that there was nothing in the shape of markets able to purchase goods and return to the business men the usury they had paid or gone responsible for.

And with the increase of poverty in the markets increase of travel to the usurers for loans became the order of the day in the hope of tiding things to better days.

But the people had been drained until they could not purchase goods when cut to one-half of

their former price, and the business men could not go on and sell goods for prices that did not realize the cost of the goods.

And all the big cloth signs covering the business buildings in continuous flow throughout the streets of our cities and towns, announcing fabulous "bargains," "going out of business" and "bankrupt stocks" and "dissolution sales" could not stimulate any life in business.

A leading business man has said that the panic of 1893 was a bankers' panic; but it was not a bankers' panic in the sense that he implies.

It was the harvesting time of the banks and all the great interest schemers who had worked the people for all they were worth, and now felt the presence of the opportunity for gathering in their taxes, either in money or in valuable income-bearing property at low prices, and squeezing the business men for increased tribute under plea of a tight money market, so as to scoop up such profits as the business men had gathered in the past few years.

The business men in the order of business had paid or given securities for the usurers' taxes, expecting, as they had been doing, to be able to recoup themselves in their exchanges or transactions with the people; but now the ungrateful usurers, knowing no friendship in business, were going to make the business men, having good securities in

hand, pay smartly for any favors they asked to help them over their embarrassment in facing the fierce competition in markets abnormally contracted by the people's poverty.

Busy days those harvesting times of the usurers! Courts, clerks, lawyers and sheriffs and hosts of employes are kept busy filling out forms, putting up schemes, and flying in all directions, for the usurers' crops are to be gathered. Panic and poverty in the outside world, but picnic times and days of gladness among the usurers, who are now taking from others everything of value within reach; and all this hustle, and bustle, and jigging and flying of courts, and clerks and lawyers and sheriffs is but for the purpose of installing thieves as owners of something they do not own, except as thieves own that which they gather as thieves.

And the interest schemers with their stolen wealth have planting times as well as harvesting times during panic periods and are always on the lookout for what will bring in a good income. With big eyes and no scruples they scent these bargains from afar, and they boldly scheme to steal by tricks, or buy if they cannot steal, valuable properties.

Railroads they encouraged into accepting loans to improve their road beds or terminals as soon as they were momentarily embarrassed by their in-

creased expenses through the usurers' levies, as well as many which could pay their expenses were it not for the under plotting, were hustled into the bankruptcy court and bid in at song prices and lashed into "systems" with some one road as the backbone for a new series of swindling.

Street car lines especially attract their attention through the great cheapening of their operations by electricity and their greater employment through the quickened movement. With a continuous collection of the same fare as was established in war times, when horseflesh, hay, grain and supplies of all kinds were high, the usurers were quick to see that large revenue could be figured out of them, and they bought them up in all directions, cheaply where they could scheme it that way, and at an advance where they must pay it, and then dumped the lines of many cities into the hands of syndicates for both usurous and stock swindling purposes.

And how cunningly these old usurous rascals always work. Knowing that the people in all localities were eager for quicker methods of conveyance, before gobbling those roads they sent their officers to the Legislatures of their States and represented that it was necessary to have a franchise for a long term of years in order to float their bonds to pay for the conversion of their lines into electric ones, and thus secure a "contract."

Everything that turns in a "big income," or the spot cash quickly in volume that will allow fleecing, the usurers are after, and they have secured, and are daily procuring more firmly, such a grip upon the cash-gathering concerns of the country that little cash will be obtainable for the purposes of agriculture, manufacture, and commerce, except at ruinous interest bearing rates that will so hamper and obstruct their outlets as to establish the usurers in continual command of their movements.

Busy times! very busy times, indeed! have the usurers in panic periods. Harvesting from the past and planting for income from the future, while agriculture, manufacture and commerce are paralyzed throughout the domain of their activity, and tens of millions of people drained to poverty by usurous taxation are struggling to get the barest sort of an existence, while hundreds of thousands of human beings are begging for something to eat in the streets of the cities and on the highways of the country, and hundreds of thousands are being driven to commit crime in order to get something to support life, and tens and tens of thousands are dying for want of proper food to sustain life throughout the confines of the American Republic.

Foul usury, be it said, to human shame,
For men's poverty and degradation is to blame;
And yet we boast this as a Christian land,
And help uphold the usurers' plundering hand.

CHAPTER XXI.

WHAT IS THE AMOUNT OF MONEY PER CAPITA IN CIRCULATION?

[From Dye's Government Counterfeit Detector.]

REALIZING that the amount of available money in a country is a potential factor, if indeed it does not correctly measure the degree of its prosperity, I am interested to know, from the standpoint of your journal, the actual amount of money, *per capita* — gold, silver and currency — now at the disposal of the business interest of the country; in other words, the practical amount now in circulation in the United States?

I know that as reported by the treasury department, the total amount of money of all kinds in circulation September 1, 1894, was $1,646,671,481. Assuming, despite the peculiar system of book-keeping, said to be practiced by the treasury, that the amount stated to be in circulation is correct, and estimating the population at 68,500,000, the *per capita* is found to be practically $24. Let us see how this is proved.

Of the total amount outstanding and in circulation, $603,860,000 is in gold coined or issued. Deducting the amount of gold coin in the treasury, there is in round numbers, $500,000,000 of gold now claimed to be in circulation. Does any sane business man suppose there is one-half of this amount of gold in actual circulation in this country? If so, let him show his hand. Virtually, gold is out of circulation. Other than what the clearing houses may have available, there is practically no gold in circulation. Of this reported 500 millions of gold, there is no account taken of what has been used in the arts and industries, nor what has been lost or taken out of the country in all these years.

The above total amount includes $86,516,800 subsidiary silver, of which $60,000,000 is now counted as in actual circulation. Who believes that all the small coins minted before the war are now in use, especially since certain half dollars and half dimes command,

respectively, from $100 to $400 each? They long since disappeared from circulation; as have also the 20,000 silver dollars coined in 1804. The only half dozen of these dollars now known to be in existence are held at 1000 dollars apiece. Yet, says Mr. L. C. Bateman, they are all classed as *per capita* circulation. And this fiction has been running through all the treasury reports for thirty years. The remainder of our money consists of notes and certificates, which every year necessarily lessens in quantity to an enormous extent. The amount privately secreted, annually lost, worn out, burnt up, taken abroad, etc., aggregates many millions.

Again, $67,000,000 of our paper money are in denominations of $10,000 each: Do you use such bills to pay off your help every week? Nearly $200,000,000 are in bills of $1,000 and $500 each, while $500,000,000 are locked up in bank vaults.

Unlike some dead men, *dead money* really counts no figure. From these plain facts, one can see that the amount of money in actual circulation is not over but under 50 per cent. of what is claimed to be by the treasury department.

GEO. A. BACON.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

CHAPTER XXII.

MONEY. — DEFINITION OF FIAT — AN ORDER; A DECREE.

MONEY is a fiat establishment and represents selected matter bearing a stamp of identification empowered by competent authority to perform certain offices among men, and derives its effectivity from the power of the force that decrees its being and not from any self-contained value that has power to make it a measuring unit for other

property of the world as the usurers claim gold to possess.

The usurer seeks to keep up a mystification about the properties of money and as long as they can mix up and twist up our writers on political economy, newspaper editors, and the small, crafty individuals who pose as our statesmen, they feel assured they can entrap their game and continue their plundering of the people.

Too long have the people of this country wallowed through the disasters, trials and poverty created by usurous abstractions, and if the Republic is to live the intelligent citizen must learn what money really is, and not be ensnared by the sophistry which draws him within reach for the usurers' plucking.

The United States Congress is the only power in this Republic that can declare what shall be money, and it can make, stamp, invent or fabricate money from any substance it may choose, and in such volume as it may wish.

By bearing this fact in mind, and also the definition of the word fiat, we all ought to be bright enough to realize when the usurer sneeringly speaks of fiat money through his newspaper organs that it is only fiat money that we can have under any condition, and that the gold dollar, which the usurers keep their clutch upon, is fiat money as well as the national bank notes.

No convention of mankind ever assembled to usher in any of the metals, not even gold and silver, as the materials to use for money; and the claim of the usurers that "gold was divinely furnished" for that purpose finds its "bed-rock of principle" in the usurers' desire to darken the minds of men that they may use them as willing slaves.

As money, in a rough sort of way, the metals came to be used as such in the night-time between savagism in its breaking form to a crude semi-civilization in the hour of its infant birth, where the line of demarcation was so faint that the crossing from wildest rudeness to a forward trend of intelligence was hardly discernible in the dance of the white, yellow and copper nuggets with the shells and animal teeth in its primitive ornamentation.

Men have become bewildered to such an extent by "theories" about money that they are unable to realize the great truths of it; that experience should have taught them; and the usurers and the political economists work energetically to keep up the mystification by fiddling theories, until their songs wind up with the same old tune, that "money in addition to being a medium of exchange is also a measure of value, a store of value, a standard of value."

They say money must have a unit of value,

must have within itself, without any regard to anything else, that property on which the money unit must be based; and grave statesmen knowing muchly of the theories of law, and very little of the percentages of thieving embodied in usurous practices; and learned men from the colleges, representing education more than intelligence, have accepted the usurers' teachings and deceived themselves and labored to deceive us all as to what constitutes a basis for money, and by whom that money should be issued.

Money need not contain within itself a recognized commodity of value, for it may be nothing more than a bond stipulating that on demand or after some specified time, some property or service will be exchanged for it; and even that property or service may not be in existence to-day, for a solvent government able to maintain perpetuity can declare and issue money as a bond on some property or service whose structure or rendition is of the future.

The unit of value in money humbuggery loses its mystifying nature when we recognize the fact that a unit of value and a shifting money measure are altogether two different things, and that a unit of value, as distinguished from a fiat of value, is something which does not, has not, and cannot exist; for such a unit must represent something unalterably fixed in value, and any declara-

tion that so much of anything shall always represent just so much value is an assumption that can have no standing in fact.

We have tables of weights and measures which are arbitrary assumptions and establishments, and, though they serve their purpose, they betray in their want of convenience in their units and multiples the smallness of the intelligence that selected and established them, and we have also the highly intellectual and scientific assumption known as the Metric or Decimal System of weights and measures, whose unit is so jealously guarded from alteration that not a single particle of dust is allowed to fall upon the piece of platinum used as the measure of the unit; but all these units represent the starting point for multiples of exact divisions of matter capable of being continuously employed by men in correct duplication with the aid of the exact science of mathematics, while a unit of value has no fixture, as not only matter is involved, but also mind, the most susceptible thing to varying influences that God has placed on earth.

Money is a medium of exchange among men, and all the subsidiary functions attributed to it are powers that exist outside of any unit of value centralization in money's component material, as is clearly demonstrable in the fact that we are frequently obliged to give varying amounts of that

money, although it may be gold, for, like commodities purchased at different and even at the same time for like things from different individuals.

The governing conditions that affect the exchanges and movements of men such as demand, tender, time, or place, changes the standard and measure of value in money when placed against the services, commodities, wants and schemes of men; and the mathematical unit of the first order in numbers on which a monetary unit is established, is the only unit of first order that money system can logically have, and no matter what property may be allied to that unit it cannot form a conjunction with mind and establish a unit of value independent of other matter of earth; and no power of money, even its fiat force, which is its strength, can act otherwise than as an adjustable measure that will work upon decreed lines, maintaining, increasing, or decreasing their dimension as the conditions and minds of men dictate in mood, time and place; and that money is only protected in its measuring office from violent extremes of change by its debt-settling power, which makes men compete for the privilege of redeeming it in their services or commodities, in order that they may command the services and commodities of others, who also wish to redeem it for the same purpose, and not because it may be converted into the commodity of gold which fifty men

out of a million never seek as a commodity for exchange.

Therefore, we say that a unit of value as a confined establishment in the material of a money standard is a mythical thing, an unjustified assumption, a Will o' the Wisp in the marshy lands of fallacious theories which can dance nowhere save in those marshlands where the cunning usurer sends those great pretenders, our modern political economists and mystified statesmen, to hunt by the dancing, gaseous light for an intangible something which does not exist; while the usurer. selecting different ground for a different purpose, springs upon his victim like a beast of human prey.

The usurer does not believe in the absurdity of a unit of value as an embodied property in money, outside of the use of such theory for the purpose of deceiving men so that he may enslave them and steal the fruits of their labors; and all education that fails to teach this fact fails to teach men a fact they should know in order to protect themselves from the deceit, trickery and fraud of the usurer, whose one great aim in life is the robbery of men.

In the American Republic we have the most highly educated and intelligent nation upon earth, and it only requires a concentration of thought on the part of the people to dislodge

from their minds those impressions they have received from an irresponsible and soullessly conducted newspaper press at the usurers' dictation, and they then will make a decision that their enterprise will not be tied in movement to await the favorable juggling of any kind of metal money, or be made to hand over to usurers the result of their productions.

The usurers cry "honest money"—"sound money" while drawing from paper money, and paper substitutes for money untold hundreds of millions of dollars of revenue, and the people must decide whether usury is to continue as the great and over-reaching business of the Nation.

The money of the country to-day is made the instrument for robbing the masses for the benefit of certain rich classes, and every dollar of our monetary circulation draws to the usurers yearly property of the people several times greater than itself, while the productive power of the country meets nothing but obstacles that hinder its movements.

There are two bases on which money in the future will be founded by intelligent nations and they are sound and will give to money that safety and completeness of volume that will never allow a few conspiring individuals to control the movements of men, and they consist of a service basis and a property basis bonded in the government note.

But outside of issuing money bonded on services and property every nation should have a primary money. That is a money of first rank, of first importance. The usurers seek to make gold the primary money, because they can juggle their paper money upon it to rob the people while always keeping the gold in their own possession.

Who should own the money of a country except the whole people of the country? It should never be issued by individuals. Nations cannot get along without money. Primary money should not be a "promise to pay." It should be an *ESTABLISHMENT OF MONEY BY THE SOVEREIGN WILL OF THE PEOPLE.* Carefully issued as to volume, and the volume never lessened, other kinds of money issued as promise to deliver value or services can have steadiness of valuation and circulating power imparted to them by being made under certain conditions exchangeable for the primary money.

A good endorsement for primary money would be on the front: —

PRIMARY MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES.

PROPERTY OF THE PEOPLE.

TO COUNTERFEIT IS DEATH.

LEGAL TENDER OF LAST RESORT FOR ALL DEBTS DUE, OR OWED BY, THE UNITED STATES, OR INDIVIDUALS THEREOF.

And on the reverse: —

TO LOAN FOR USURY IS PUNISHABLE BY IMPRISONMENT, FORFEITS CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS, AND NULLIFIES RIGHT OF RECOVERING SUCH LOAN.

CHAPTER XXIII.

CAPITAL.

PLENTY OF CAPITAL, BUT USURY INTERFERES WITH ITS EMPLOYMENT.

Capital exists in our country with such fullness that the energies of our people are only held in check by the usurous drainage and tricks which keep our people from using that capital.

It is important that we all thoroughly understand what relation money bears to capital, and what capital is; for only on a correct understanding of what constitutes capital and the relation that money bears to it will a clear insight be obtainable of the province of money.

Money is an actuate* of capital, not capital itself, but an agency of capital which man has united with the forces of capital for reasons of convenience and economy.

The coercive power that this agency of capital exerts over the divisions of capital has caused

* Definition of the word Actuate — To incite to action; to influence. Thus: A weight, spring, an electrical current, steam or other forces may be the actuate of a machine. Money is one of the actuates of capital; one of the great influencing forces that gives it motion.

men to make the mistake of treating it as the great division of capital, while many treat the agency as the principal.

Correctly stated capital is nothing more or less than the power men can employ to use the things of earth.

Whether it is to create money, or do other things of earth, or direct opportunities earth offers, or refers to what man past has accomplished or brought within our control, or to what man present has or can create or control, capital is fully embraced in the definition of "man's power to command things of earth."

Political economists tell us that it is necessary to arbitrarily use terms to distinguish certain factors, and that those terms must be rigidly applied in order to establish the science of political economy, whether or not those terms are susceptible of a different meaning.

We would not get confused or misled by them, nor themselves get deceived, if after uniting things of many divisions they would give such union an arbitrary term, and the divisions, arbitrary names and classifications; but they throw the many forces that keep up production and reproduction into one heap and style it capital, and then soon proceed to treat money, a created agency of capital, as capital itself.

Capital is not stored savings or surplus earnings

represented in money; for money is nothing but a creation capital establishes, and if all the stored savings and surplus earnings in money were swept from existence capital could immediately reproduce such an amount, and meanwhile capital would only suffer while installing a live force in the place of as much destroyed force in its agency as those swept away stored savings and surplus earnings would represent.

A money existence has its being in the fixing of everything that enters in its composition as matter that can no further become a part of reproduction. It cannot increase its kind, for money does not make money, as the catch-words of the usurers assert, for its own life necessitates the death of everything that has entered into it, and only on its own death as money can a new birth bring it forth as something that may be used in a reproduction.

Separating the appointed agency of forces from the forces themselves, we arrive at a point where we can proceed to discuss the relations the agent bears to the principal, the while bearing in mind that the agency is completely impotent outside of its office.

As long as money is an actuate of capital, a power that is important for giving capital motion, it must follow that as that motive power is weak or strong capital will be affected by it and move

with slowness or rapidity; therefore, we reach the conclusion that capital will create wealth that will be vastly greater than that required for consumption when a goodly supply of reliable, untaxed money exists; and that when that supply is short, and in still more intense degree when short and highly taxed, capital becomes hampered in all directions; and furthermore, that any attempt to overcome the shortage of money that denies to men the use of the capital at their command by the issuance of usurous substitutes for money is not only detrimental to the full use of capital by men, but is a means of robbing the great producing and consuming classes for the benefit and enrichment of classes whose sole object is the transfer to themselves of the benefits of the creation capital causes.

It has not been for want of capital that so many of our manufacturers, farmers, store-keepers, jobbers, producers and all kinds of business men have been driven from or made impotent factors for carrying on operations in business and their places supplanted in occupancy by vast aggregations, not of capital, but of the means of controlling capital, by having power to direct its important actuate, the money agency — that force which gives power and motion to capital through the opportunities it affords men to exchange their commodities or productions, be they what they

may, directly labor, or results of labor, or things considered necessary or desirable for sustaining human life, its comforts, pleasures, or necessities.

Capital consists of many factors that in a larger or smaller degree of union, or separately, can be employed for the purpose of bringing forth or increasing production, or of accomplishing anything men consider to be desirable within the limits of human power, and any treatment of its actuate as capital itself is but a prostitution of truth for purpose of falsehood.

The American people have not suffered for want of capital, but through want of facilities for using capital; for never was capital so abundant and so efficient at any time in any part of the world as it has been for the past quarter of a century in the United States; yet through all that time millions of people have gone down to premature graves through privation, want and worriment, and greater millions have wrecked their health in their endeavors to maintain themselves against measures established to ensure their downfall.

Usurers have created those conditions by their robberies, and have by plan, plot and bribery succeeded in dominating our legislation so as to increase their leaching incomes, by the fixing of capital, so that its great fruits are no longer to go

to those who are entitled to receive them, but are to be turned over to great syndicates, trusts, corporations and individuals with extended business ramifications that can give sufficient bonds to collect and turn over to the usurers such taxation as these usurers levy upon the people.

Henceforth, until the people positively and firmly say nay, all the mighty discoveries and inventions of men, past and present, in the harnessing of steam, electricity and all elementary and mechanical forces of production, the education, the labor and skill of men—all important and prime factors of capital whose benefits belong to all men—are to be operated as tribute gatherers for the usurers, and directly or indirectly in compounded amount the people must yield to the usurers' demand, whether it comes in through national or State taxation, transportation charges, rents, direct interest and discount charges, or indirect taxation through the commercial or commodity exchanges, or by any means usurers may use to leach the people.

Usury creates no capital, but hinders the use of capital it cannot tax. The employers of capital are never encouraged or aided by forced abstractions from the rewards they have labored to gain. When usurers can dictate in an important measure who shall use capital, and under what conditions capital shall be used, and the amount of tax-

ation the workers of capital must render unto them because of the usurers' control of the money actuate of capital, it is time for the people of a nation to raise themselves above the level of fools and know the truth — that the money actuate of capital is a simple and easily created thing which the government is in duty bound to take in hand and establish in such volume, and under such conditions, that the usurer cannot find a profitable business in his thieving vocation.

CHAPTER XXIV.

THE USURERS' FIVE PER CENT. CASH, NINETY-FIVE PER CENT. CHECK CLAIM.

THE usurers' science lays down as fundamental law that a small volume of money will compel agriculture, manufacture and commerce to resort to a use of credit instruments to bridge that void which cannot otherwise be crossed.

Any proposition to increase the volume of money in the hands of the people always sets the usurers to plotting, and they hasten their tools to the halls of legislation to button-hole the representatives of the people, so as to find out their standing upon the matter, and to haggle, discourage and intimidate those whose views are

considered unfavorable, by telling harrowing tales of calamities that will come and the dreadful responsibilities resting upon the shoulders of those who make such direful mistakes as to interfere with the people's prosperity.

And the usurers, or their tools, follow the people's representatives from the opening of their bed-room doors in the morning until their final closing at night, contrasting ways that may have pleasant ends to those that hereafter may be made unpleasant for the representative, quoting remonstrances from this section and that section of the country from business men whom the usurers by telegraph, mail or personal interview have frightened into believing there would be a "business disturbance."

The usurers claim that 5 per cent. of money against the volume of total business transactions of a nation is a sufficient supply to have, and gull the people into an acceptance of its correct estimate by showing bank figures that represent the people's transactions to be settled by employment of checks to the amount of 95 per cent.

Without sufficient data to work upon, we will get down to figures that are within our reach, and which show beyond doubt the magnitude of the grasp that the banking system of the United States has upon the people.

The Secretary of the United States Treasury

being pressed for an estimate of the amount involved in the daily transactions of the banking institutions of the United States appointed September 15, 1892 as a day for all the banks to keep an account of receipts of all kinds, with the result that the reports returned showed the receipts to be upon that day $333,205,213, of which 90 61-100 per cent. was represented in checks and 9 39-100 per cent. in money, making the check volume reach $299,105,023 and the cash $32,100,190.

Allowing 309 legal banking days in the year, we will, on multiplying them with the days' receipts, reach as the aggregate amount of the banks' yearly receipts the enormous amount of $102,959,410,817, of which $10,047,359,470 was in money and the balance in private instruments of circulation taking the place of money, and all of which was, although private substitutes for money, just as available for usurous manipulation as if of recognized legal tender money.

$32,100,190 daily payments to banks require the passage of an amount of $400,000,000 every two weeks, or twenty-four times a year, or of $1,600,000,000, which the treasury books fictitiously show to be the circulation of the Nation, once in two months, or of nearly $900,000,000, which is larger than the real aggregate circulation, once a month in total.

In the passage of three hundred million dollars

of credit instruments in one day, or at the rate of ninety-three billions of dollars in one year, against legal money receipts that reach thirty-two millions in one day, or less than ten and one-half billion in one year through the banks, any intelligent person must realize that there were many notes of individuals aggregating vast amounts that would never have been given if a proper amount of legal tender money was in existence, for business men are not so fond of making themselves subjects of direct interest taxation as to make a habit of issuing or receiving personal time promises in the shape of notes when cash is easily obtainable.

Now, as this official report shows indisputably, if there is actually 10 per cent. of money paid into the banks in their business dealings, and not only the possibility but a well-founded probability that the percentage of real money used would have been vastly greater if a sufficient volume of money existed, does it not painfully show an impoverishing shortage in other channels of trade connected with human living and transactions which would under any correct or adequate volume of money always maintain a large average amount resistably against bank manipulation.

The liquidation effected through the clearing house, as in New York, is undoubtedly done on a 95 per cent. check and 5 per cent. cash basis; but the clearing house is nothing but a profitable

arrangement between banks where they settle one account by offsetting it against another, using only a small amount of money to clear away such balances as may remain.

The usurers boast of the clearing house as a great "economizer of currency," and point it out to our "statesmen" and "political economists" as a mighty reason why a very large circulation of money is not needed.

The juggling of the clearing house "economizes" money for the bankers' benefit, allowing them with safety in the absence of any undue excitement in money matters to employ fully nine-tenths of the business men's daily deposits for the purposes of usury on their own behalf.

The "economy of the clearing house" of the usurers is a dangerous thing for the people, for it makes every man who deposits money in the banks for the purpose of use in settling business accounts become a furnisher of means for the carrying on of usurous schemes by the usurers for their own benefit, with the result that any interruption of their business by the business men making any extra calls for their own money brings forth the report of "a tight money market."

We are all aware of a late instance when the New York clearing house boldly assumed the prerogatives of government in defiance of law and issued millions of dollars' worth of notes of their

own fabrication to be used for money under the name of "New York clearing house certificates," to get over the disasters and exposures that would have fallen on the New York banks if they could not bridge the demands made upon them by the business men of New York for the use of their own deposits.

And when called to account for their outrage upon the rights of the Government some of their apologists arose on the floors of Congress and declared that "the patriotic efforts of the New York bankers had saved the country from untold disaster, and that their breach of the law must be overlooked through their desire to benefit the people;" and instead of being tried, convicted and imprisoned for high treason, the New York bankers congratulated themselves upon their ability to state things in a very good way to the people.

The American Republic has failed to furnish the people with a sufficient volume of money for the transaction of their business, because the government has failed at the most vital point affecting their welfare and happiness by its continuing the vile paternalism that European governments have long bestowed on a favored usurous class on account of the aid they receive from them in holding the people down.

As the usurers alone furnish the accommoda-

tions business men require in a place to deposit their daily receipts where they can check them out at pleasure, the tendency of centralizing the entire money of the country, taken in the line of general business transactions, into the hands of usurous jugglers has developed more and more until it has become a menacing danger to the interests of the whole people.

The business men carry their daily receipts to the banks and the railroads, telegraph and other corporations carry their receipts there, and after these parties make their deposits the volume left outside is very small.

The railroads at certain periods check back into circulation enough to pay their employees and other necessary expenses, which may be roughly estimated as less than one-half their receipts, the other part being held for payments for interest on bonds and dividends on stock into the hands of a usurous class.

The business man makes his deposits, and, as he wants to keep as large a balance to his credit as possible at the banks, bills he ought to pay are often delayed on this account to the great embarrassment of those that ought to receive their money, and whom, if they are not obliged to resort to seeking loans at usurous rates, may be held back from making movements that would be beneficial to themselves and the community.

Thus is a small volume of money brought down until only a low volume of money exists outside of the usurers' possessions, and the small operators in business of all kinds, who constitute the management of two-thirds of our productive forces and also employ, outside of those engaged in railway service, more than two-thirds of the labor of the country, are hampered and hindered and forcibly prevented from employing as much labor as they would, or doing as much business as would pay them if we had an adequate circulation that could not be put under usurous control.

The usurers do not want a 5 per cent. money circulation of money against the business volume of the country, or even against that of the bank business, for the magnitude of such operations is something they never dwell upon when discussing or intriguing to limit the Nation's circulation of money.

We have shown conclusively, from the only source from which it can be shown, that the bank receipts aggregate 103 billion of dollars in a single year, and even a circulation of 5 per cent. of this amount would give a volume of more than 5 billion of dollars.

But the grand razzle dazzle that is held up to public view is the clearing house settlements, where claim is balanced against claim, and no more money is required than will cover up the ragged edges that remain.

The usurers declare the circulation to be large enough, and as the largest part of it is in their control why should they want more?

With an actual active circulation that cannot exceed one billion of dollars at the most, if it ever does reach that amount, they are able to make it dance a jig of joy for themselves in the bank handlings of so many tens of billions of dollars of interest-gathering substitutes for money.

But some day the people will awaken to the vast amount of interest taxation assessed upon them through the banks and multitudinous other schemes and ask themselves the sensible question: "Why have we worked as slaves for plundering usurers when all their taxation has been juggled upon a circulation of legitimate money whose active amount has never been more than a billion of dollars?"

And they will come to the conclusion that the government of the Nation must stop its class paternalism, and that the usurers who have so long been under its care and direction in fleecing the people shall stand aside, and that justice shall be dealt to the people, *who are the Nation, and cannot be subjects for paternal consideration by the officers of the government.*

The Constitution of the United States asserted the sovereignty of the people, and reinforced that declaration by declaring their right to bear arms

as something that should never be interfered with by any process of law or under any pretext; and this sovereignty cannot be interfered with or lessened by any of the acts done at any time by any agents this sovereignty appoints to look after its rights; and so, when this sovereignty shall declare they are tired of paternalism for usurers the people will get free from the usurous avalanche of their yearly billions of dollars taxation.

The usurous taxation is needless, is uncompensating, is cruel, and the people acting through the government can throw it all one side, as with a sweep of their hand, by the establishment of banks and clearing houses that will extend to business men and the people in general all the facilities the usurous banks of to-day afford, and with absolute safety for the depositors, a condition the private banking system of to-day cannot guarantee.

And the government can make it a revenue system, established upon a basis of service to the people—a foundation upon which governments of the future of highest developments must gather their ordinary revenue.

Supplant the usurous system with that of a service accommodation by the government, for it can extend at one-half of one per cent. favors to the people in a more beneficial direction than the private and usurous system ever did.

The securities that are good enough for the usurers should be good enough for the government to work upon; but *their reliability must be greatly increased with the enhanced power of our producers and the people in general when they are allowed to keep the billions of dollars now annually stolen from them for self strengthening*, instead of constantly weakening their resources by turning those billions of dollars to the usurers.

CHAPTER XXV.

THE CONDEMNATION OF MANUFACTURERS.

FREE traders and many other "reformers" are constantly dwelling upon the undue profits that, in their imagination, manufacturers are making; and so much has this idea been cultivated and resown, not only by those parties but by the usurers in screening their thieving, that large numbers of mankind actually feel that a manufacturer is an oppressor.

In former days manufacturers enjoyed opportunities for acquiring a certain amount of wealth which in the then existing condition of things was considered large, its dimensions being generally magnified by his spending a good part of it in erecting a fine residence, out houses and stables,

and making nice looking lawns, setting out trees and dabbling in agriculture by the employment of a few men in an aimless sort of way.

Men who procure their information from the written tales of olden day, or their new rehashings by writers who re-dish and pepper them up, may believe the manufacturer to be a natural robber of men; but if they follow up the conditions under which he labors, the perplexities and uncertainties that confront him, the usurous taxation he has to meet and try to recoup, and weigh well the absence of disposition for investing his surplus earnings into outside schemes for filching a greater income, the occupation of his mind with the intricacies of production with its ever shifting problems and crossings and competition, and any fair minded man must come to the conclusion that this person, who of necessity commingles largely with his help, is not the human devil that fools and usurers paint.

You can individualize firms and persons who employ men they illy pay and overwork to the point of a savage devilism, but these men are the exception, and even they would undoubtedly be more considerate and better men if usury was not fixing the possibility of their margin on a very narrow line.

Most manufacturers to-day only exist by the practicing of a very close economy, for they are

exposed to usurous taxation all along the line, and it requires close figuring to receive and secure a profit when facing markets that usury compels to be grinding ones.

Destroy the conditions under which the usurer exists and the haggled markets will disappear, and the manufacturer, the farmer, the trader, the laborer in all lines of production, and all the people, can live and enjoy an existence that will never call for human beings devouring one another, hyena-like, as in these days, where even the laborer, bemoaning his own oppression, turns in self-defence for self-maintenance to the intensification of the oppression of his brother workers by calling down the prices of their productions.

If he who makes two blades of grass to grow where but one grew before is a public benefactor, then the manufacturer is on the list, for he helps the people to live by extending the fields of employment and the benefits of production.

Kill the usurer and extend the reachings of the humanizing factors of beneficial production throughout the world. Make free from the bottom sands of earth which bear the foundations to the uppermost bricks upon its chimneys the factory and its machinery from all direct taxation, extending the agency of the State to furnish intelligence of the conditions in distant markets, and the terrible struggles between employers and

employees as to wages, and employers for markets will pass away and give entrance to a peaceful satisfaction all around.

CHAPTER XXVI.

LIFT UP OUR SCHOOLS.

We send our children to the schools,
Then send them out as "educated" fools;
To help along the usurer's knavery,
And hold humanity down in slavery.

MEN in all ages of the world have been more or less directly educated to rob from one another, cunning instead of honor being at the real bottom of the teachings of parents and schools.

Fool ourself as much as we may, and still when we examine it closely we must admit that even our very school system, of which we feel so proud, is nothing else than a more polite, but hardly a less intense, continuance of the idea that worldly cunning finds its justification in the success of men.

We cannot dispute the fact that when we send young men to our schools and colleges to train for a business life we educate them in that soulless cunning which only differs in degree from a proper classification as a teaching of "theft" by

the showing of the dividing line that separates the legal from the illegal side.

Our school systems are very faulty indeed, if they are not wholly godless. We send children to school and it seems to be our whole ambition to crowd into their minds as much as we possibly can, compelling them to memorize large quantities of matter, a good deal of which is harmful, instead of being beneficial, through the destruction of the child's ability for reflection on vital matters by his overloading with matter of little account.

We say our schools are godless because they fail to impress on the minds of the children those principles of morality which are the very foundations of manhood and womanhood, and which are necessary and should be widely cultivated if we wish to perpetuate free government on earth.

Instead of all these indirect teachings in our schools that success in life, as measured by the accumulation of dollars and cents or of property, is a goal to strive for, it should be directly taught that they were only justifiable when honorably won.

If, instead of concealing their effects, the power of the interest tables and percentage rules for abstracting the wealth of men and the checking of the owners of real capital from its employment had been properly shown in the schools who will say that the usurer would sit as he now does in

command of the world with millions of people at his feet shivering with impoverishment and degradation.

The power of reflection is not taught to our children, and their education is only in keeping with the artificial surroundings of the day; for they are made the victims of a continual cramming of matter which they are not shown how to make beneficial to themselves in after life.

Leaving the school house are they enabled to go out into the world as they ought? Have they about them those powers which the long years they spent in obtaining an education should have left them equipped with? Have they the self-reliance they should have to keep them from falling before temptation? They certainly have not, and still they are going out to struggle in a world "run wild" with crime and deceit and desire for getting gain at any cost!—out into a new school to have their character, which is yet but as clay left in a plastic state, moulded by the habits of the people they come in contact with.

Our young people on leaving the schools should have within themselves a broadness of thought that would make them detest that which is wrong, and a desire to advance only the right—the very rocks of a well formed and well fixed character in keeping with what should be the broad foundations of a free government.

Go to your schools, see that they have text-books that will lead them right. Teach them how the interest tables and the percentage rules have been worked all over the earth so that sheeneyism cannot longer dominate State and Church.

Petition your school committees, your town councils, your boards of aldermen, your State Legislatures and your Congresses to have text-books placed in your schools that will show the abstractions that have been made from men.

TRUTH ERRAND

TELLS THE REAL CAUSE WHY THE FEW ARE SO VERY RICH AND THE MILLIONS SO VERY POOR.

THE "PROTECTION" THE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC NEED IS PROTECTION FROM BEING ROBBED BY USURERS.

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